

Fort Hunt Oral History
P.O. Box 1142
Interview with Paul Fairbrook by Brandon Bies and Vincent Santucci
Stockton, California
February 15, 2008

INTERVIEWER: -- that be a problem?

INT: No. Okay. Today is February 15th, 2008. This is an oral history interview as part of the Fort Hunt Oral History Project for the National Park Service. We are here in Stockton, California [00:22] at the home of Mr. Paul Fairbrook [00:25], a veteran of the Military Intelligence Research Section [00:28] at P.O. Box 1142 [00:30]. This is Brandon Bies with the National Park Service, as well as Vincent Santucci. And this is the first in a series of recorded interviews. With that, Mr. Fairbrook [00:41], if you wouldn't mind just starting off and just kind of informally tell us a little bit about your background, maybe starting with where and when you were born.

PAUL FAIRBROOK: Okay. I was born on August 21st, 1923, in Borgsdorf [00:55], Oranienburg [00:56], which is about -- a suburb about 20 miles from Berlin [01:00]. My father had established a bank and became a member of the Berlin Stock Exchange [01:07]. And he decided to buy a house in the country. But that was in 1923, at the height of the Depression. And right after a few days, when he drove through some very poor areas of Berlin [01:23] in his big -- I think it was a [unintelligible], or some -- like a Cadillac type of automobile. And he drove through the poor section, and they started to throw tomatoes and eggs at the car. He decided the next day to change the car into a more modest automobile, and ultimately built a house in Berlin [01:44], which I visited just a few years ago. And the people that owned it now were very hospitable, and I was happy to go back to the house, which -- in which I lived most of my life. I lived in Germany for 10 years and I don't remember much about it [02:00]. And then someday

it'll be interesting for a psychologist to tell me why I forgot so much, because I never really suffered seriously from national socialism except that, when my father found out in 1933, when I was 10 years old, that my twin brother and I were unable to go to a certain school he said, "This is not a country in which I want to live." The only specific act of anti-Semitism that I experienced in Germany was when I was not allowed to stay in what was called Tierschutz [02:33], which was an animal protection league similar to Boy Scouts. And, when -- I was kicked out of it because I was Jewish. And that's -- but that really wasn't very much. We went to -- my father sent us to France in 1932, already, for -- while he was trying to make arrangements to leave in 1933. And we went back to Germany for a few months and then left for Palestine [02:56]. We went to Palestine [02:58] in 1933 [03:00]. And my father was trying to decide what he could do with his banking background, which was not much at the time. They needed kibbutzim, young farmers. They didn't need bankers, especially not German bankers. So, with whatever little money he had left -- he had wanted to sneak some jewelry in his -- in the soles of his shoes. But my mother wouldn't let him because her mother wouldn't leave Germany, and she was afraid that she would be used as a hostage. So, she did not allow my father to do that. So, he was allowed to take maybe one twentieth of whatever he had into Palestine [03:40] and use that money to build a little factory that made scrapers, the forerunners of the LeTourneau scrapers that now scrape the earth as you make highways. It was a little machine shop in Ramat Gan [03:52], which was a suburb of Tel -- now it's a suburb of Tel-Aviv [03:57]. At the time it was a separate village [04:00]. And I remember my father with his tropical hat going down into this hot factory where they're making these scrapers. You have to realize, in 1933, the relations between the Arabs and

the Jews were still pretty good. And I remember my father taking us out into the desert for a nice walk and we'd come to an Arab village and I remember the teacher getting up with all of his students and say "Alle Malechem [phonetic]" and welcoming us. This was in 1933. But, a few years later, my father lost all of his money in that factory. And that probably is because he had met a couple of Israeli engineers. They knew Hebrew and he didn't. So, he used to say that, "I came with the money and they had the experience. Three years later I had the experience and they had the money." Anyway, he lost most of what he invested and he decided that he really couldn't stay in Palestine [04:54]. But he had no more money left. But, fortunately, he had a -- he had a [05:00] painting that he had sent to England to be sold at auction. And, just when we needed it most, the painting sold and gave us enough funds to be able to come -- to leave Palestine [05:13]. At that point he still didn't know where he could go instead. France was always an option, but he didn't speak French. So, he decided to come to America. He parked my family in Slovenia for about six months, which was the cheapest place where he could put us for -- while he was trying to arrange a visa with a friendly consul, American consul in Amsterdam, who was friendly to the Jewish people that wanted to leave. And so, we were in -- not far from Ljubljana [05:46] in Slovenia [05:47] for six months. And I remember as a young boy setting up the pins in bowling alleys. In those days they didn't have modern bowling alleys, and I used to set up the pins on these wooden bowling alleys and get a few pennies [06:00]. We even attended the Catholic Church every Sunday. They were glad to have us, even though we were Jewish. And we sat in the back up in the loft and it was a wonderful six months. And then my father had an interesting experience, because he had been a stamp collector and he had a fairly valuable

stamp collection. And somebody from the immigration and naturalization service came to check up on the visas granted by this consul. And he asked my father, "How are you going to support your family with four children if you have no one giving you an affidavit?" He said, "With my stamp collection." And the man said, "I don't see how you can do that." So, my father pulled out an envelope which had a new U.S. -- a new first day cover of the zeppelin, the dirigible. And it was -- it was mint, meaning it wasn't printed. And he said, "How much do you think this is worth?" A first day cover. And the guy said, "I don't know." So, my father took out a Scott catalog. And my father said, "Oh, it's [07:00] worth about \$800." And he said, "You must be kidding." So, father took out this Scott catalog and it showed in this catalog that the retail value was \$1200. And so, the man said, "Okay. You can go." And that was, of course, wonderful. During the time in Holland [07:17], for six months, my brother and my sister and I -- we were sent to a youth camp where we helped drain the Zuiderzee [07:25]. The Zuiderzee [07:25] was a large inland lake that had to be drained so that -- now it's earth, you see. But we had to dig -- it was very pleasant. We dug ditches to let the water go out instead of in, you see. And so, we spent the time in Holland [07:39] that way. I remember when Princess Juliana [07:42] was born, I was in the marketplace and there was a big crib, electric crib put on a wall and everybody's happy because she was a month late and they were wondering when that baby was going to be born. So, those are my memories of Amsterdam. And we came to the United States. And, of course [08:00], we were sent to Ellis Island [08:02].

INT: About what year?

PF: This was 1938.

INT: Okay.

PF: And we got to Ellis Island [08:08]. And there was a judge or official there looking us over. And he -- and my brother, George, who's here in Stockton [08:20] with me now, and he's three years my junior, he's a computer expert -- he was -- he was very shy. And the judge called him to -- forward to be sure that he was okay. And my little brother wouldn't go. He was scared. So, my father, being a wonderful man -- a very smart, he ran up to the judge and said, "May I?" And he called, and he says, "Komme hier, liebste" meaning "Come here, sweetheart." And then my son -- my brother ran to him and he took him in his arms. And the judge says, "Okay. You can go. You can come in." So, that was my experience on Ellis Island [08:52].

INT: Okay.

PF: And we came to America and my father opened a little stamp store on 96th [09:00] Street between Broadway and Amsterdam. And there was a kind of a store where you could walk up a few steps, and the front room would be the store and the back room would be the apartment. They're still there now I think. And he called it Shönebach Stamp Exchange [09:15] [phonetic], but what I find funny is that he wanted to become American, so he took the C out of the Schönebach [09:22]. Schönebach [09:23] means fair brook. It's a beautiful brook. You see, it was -- later on we became Americans and we translated into Fairbrook, because people couldn't pronounce Schönebach [09:32] properly. Although my twin brother decided he didn't want to become Fairbrook. So, he's still Schönebach [09:38]. And he -- his son just had a son, so the Schönebach [09:41] line will continue. But, in any case, he put a sign out there -- Shönebach Stamp Exchange [09:46]. And, in order to be American, he took the C out of the Schönebach

[09:46]. To this day I don't know why he did that. It seemed kind of silly, but that was our way of becoming Americans. And --

INT: Did you speak English at this point [10:00], or did you not English until you came here?

PF: Basically I didn't learn English until I came here when I was 15, you see. But I think we'd gotten a little bit of training in Palestine [10:11]. My -- both my parents were educated and they realized that we needed some preliminary thing. And the first movie that I -- as soon as we got there, while my father was trying to arrange for the apartment, my older sister, who now lives in Texas, -- she took us to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, and we were thrilled that it had just come out then. And I never -- that really was my first impression of America, and it was wonderful. And I hope I'm not going into too much detail.

INT: This is outstanding. No. This is -- this is definitely important.

PF: And then -- and then -- and then I started to work, because in those days the children worked. I was 15. I worked in a tailor shop to deliver clothes. I once worked in a -- in a -- in a -- in an antique shop, where I [11:00] broke a Dresden vase, and then I got fired from that. And it was all good experience, and when I got to be -- I wanted to go to college and become a hotel manager at 15. And I went to Cornell University's [11:18] New York City office and said in my broken English, "I want to become a -- go to Cornell [11:25]." And they looked at me, and they found out I had just arrived, and they said, "Come with me." And so, somebody took me -- this was down near 17th Street. And somebody took me a few blocks and took me to an office, the title of which I couldn't understand then. But now I know it said "Truant Officer." And they took me to that office and, before I knew it I was enrolled in Straubenmuller Textile High School

[11:48], which was just around the corner. That's how I got into high school, which was okay. And they -- I found a very lovely lady there, Mrs. [12:00] Claxton [12:01]. I still remember her. She took care of me. She took an interest in me, and she prepared me for my experience in America. During the first year the kids used to beat me up and steal my lunch and so, because I didn't know how to box or fight and I really wasn't very -- I was tall and thin, but I didn't know anything. But then, one summer, while I was hitchhiking to go to -- we used to hitchhike to go to high school, because we lived on 96th Street and this was on 17th.

INT: Wow.

PF: To save a nickel, because we could then buy -- for a nickel you could get a chocolate soda, which was cream and soda and chocolate. It was great. So, one day hitchhiking, a man found out about me, gave me a ride, and he was the owner of Camp Susquehanna [12:44], which is a wonderful, expensive, private camp in -- near Sussex, New York [12:50]. And he decided to give me a scholarship for that camp.

INT: Wow.

PF: And that summer I learned to box a little bit. Not terrifically, but enough so that the next fall, when the guy tried [13:00] to give -- to steal my lunch I threw down half a flight of stairs and that was my becoming a real American. After that I had no more problems. Anyway, I graduated from textile high school, and I started -- the first job that I got I had been referred to somebody who -- I forget the name of the organization, but it was an organization of waiters. And waiters in restaurants -- chefs and waiters -- Geneva Association [13:33] was the name. Anyway, I went to the Geneva Association [13:36] and they got me a job as a -- as a busboy at the Greenbrier Hotel [13:42] in White Sulphur

Springs [13:43]. So, with some -- by this time I was graduated from high school, and I went to White Sulfur Springs [13:51] to become a busboy. I remember with some pleasure something that happened to me at the time. Incidentally, they didn't know I was Jewish. If they had they -- I wouldn't have gotten the job [14:00], because in those days the Greenbrier Hotel [14:02] was restricted as other people -- other hotels similar types. Anyway, I got a job, and I remember once going through two sets of doors. You know, they had two sets of doors going to the dining rooms and they each had a little window in them. And that's to stop the noise of the kitchen from getting into the dining room. I remember carrying a big heavy tray of dishes going through the one door and the door hit the back of the tray and I dropped the dishes, and it made an awful noise. And I could see the maître d' rushing to see who dropped it. So, I went through the second door, went through the other set of doors, came up behind and said, "Can I help you clean this up, sir?" He said, "Good boy." And that's how I kept my job. Those are little things that I still remember, because they were sort of interesting. And then I went with the waiters to Washington, D.C. [14:52], where I worked as a -- as a banquet waiter in almost -- I joined the local union, number six, paid \$25 [15:00] to join. And I worked in almost every hotel in Washington [15:05]. And the interesting thing is that that one of them was the Wardman Park Hotel [15:08]. And the National Association of College and University Food Services, of which I was a founding member, is celebrating their 50th Anniversary this June at the Wardman Park Hotel [15:22], and I'm going to be there, although I started there as a busboy going down two flights of steps with my trays of dishes. Anyway, I was in Washington [15:31] for a few months. And then I got a job at a -- this is kind of very interesting. I got a job, first at the Park Central Hotel [15:44] as a

room clerk. And I remember Mr. Rubenstein [15:47] had a room on the third or fourth floor. And every morning he wanted a certain amount of change for tips. And one day I got a telephone call from a lady complaining that somebody was playing the piano so loud [16:00] that she couldn't sleep. And I told her that, "I'll tell Mr. Rubenstein [16:04] that you don't like his playing." And she immediately said, "Oh. I'm sorry. Everything is fine." Those were interesting experiences. But the thing that affected my Army career was that I got a job at the Franklin Towns Hotel [16:14] [phonetic] as a night auditor. I didn't really know much about the night auditing, but you had to learn how to operate one of those telephone switchboards, the kind that we -- which you plug in.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And I didn't know how to do it. And somebody started to show me. And they said, "Just be careful. This is the one for the manager. Don't let that one light up too long." So, I was watching this. All the other -- all the other telephones lit up, and I kept watching that one. And, suddenly, the manager behind me says, "What are you doing here?" And I hadn't learned how to really operate the switchboard. But he was nice, and he let me stay. And I learned how to operate the switchboard. The reason that's important is, because when I got to Camp Ritchie [16:54] -- and I'll get to that in a few minutes.

INT: Sure.

PF: I was scheduled to do [17:00] KP. Everybody had to do KP at a certain time. And -- but I got a weekend off. And, as I was going to take my leave, I passed the little booth in which the camp switchboard was located. And I saw the guys doing what I had done before. And I walked in there and said, "Does anybody need a switchboard operator?" And the lieutenant says, "Yeah. You know how to do it?" I said, "Yes." He said, "Well,

I'd sure like to have you." I said, "But I'm supposed to do KP." He said, "Don't worry about that. I'll take care of that." And when I got back I got a switchboard job, which was terrific. I was one hour off -- on, and about two hours off. And well, we had to put the bugle on every once in a while. It was just great. So, I never had to do KP. So, that was a lucky break for me. Anyway, then came Pearl Harbor [17:56] and I was -- I was a room clerk at the Park Central Hotel [18:00]. I remember that very well, because well, shortly afterwards I took out the daughter of Linton Wells [18:09], who was a famous news commentator at the time. She lived in a penthouse upstairs and we went to a prom, and I rented a car. And I went down with her and she had her little fur on. And I had my tuxedo on. And I went through the hall showing off that, see I was going out with Barbara Wells [18:26]. And the next day I was called in by Mr. Miller [18:29], the office man and said, "We don't fraternize with our guests." And I said, "This is a free country." And he said, "Yes, it is. Here's your blue slip -- your pink slip. You're fired," which was kind of an interesting -- it was particularly satisfying to me because a few years later, when I became dean of the Culinary Institute of America [18:48], I went back to the hotel and introduced myself to Mr. Miller [18:52], gave him my card, and said, "This is what I'm doing these days. I want you to know I'm the guy you fired ten years earlier [19:00]." You do get these little satisfactions in life. Anyway, during -- on December 7, 1941 -- right?

INT: Yes.

PF: Am I right? I was at the desk at noon when Pearl Harbor [19:18] was announced. And, shortly thereafter, I tried -- I tried to volunteer. I don't know exactly when. And I couldn't volunteer, because I wasn't an American citizen. Technically, I was an enemy

alien. So, I continued the career in hotel management that -- in hotels, as I just mentioned to you, until I was then -- I was drafted, because as an enemy alien, you could be drafted. You couldn't volunteer. I tried to get in the Marine Corps, and they said, "No. You're not a citizen." But, anyway, I was drafted in January 1943 and went to Camp Upton, New York [19:56]. And my only experience about Camp Upton [19:58] was that I didn't have any Army [20:00] clothes at the time. They hadn't issued me my Army clothes. I went there in a civilian suit, you see -- a double breasted civilian suit. Kind of cold -- and it was cold in January. And they made us line up. There was a long line I remember there. There was a long line going up the hill. And I waited for about an hour and -- wondering, "What am I waiting for?" And, when we got there, it was a latrine. By that time I was so cold I couldn't have done it wanted to. It was one of my first experiences in the Army. Plus the fact that, when I got my first shot -- injection. They used to say, "Watch the hook." That was -- that was what everybody said, "Watch the hook." It made us think that they were -- that the needle would be a big hook that they put into you to take blood out. And the guy in front of me fainted. He was a big guy -- just thinking about it. And, when I think of the needles today, which you don't even feel compared to then. I just remember the saying was that -- I also remember they were showing us what we called Mickey Mouse movies [21:00]. Mickey Mouse movies, of course, were the movies that were -- which were shown so that you would use protection -- that you wouldn't get sexual diseases. And they were pretty awful depictions. And we were all subjected to watching these Mickey Mouse movies. And we were given prophylactic kits and all the kind of stuff that now seem kind of humorous. But at the time they were -- made a big impression. Anyway, shortly thereafter I was sent to -- I was sent to Fort

McClellan, Alabama [21:29] for my basic training. And I was there only for a few weeks, and the only memorable experience that I remember was when I was -- when I was trained to be a marksman. They laid you down there together with another body. There was a two-person experience. A buddy would help you and you would look -- I remember lying down and there was a fly at the end of my gun sight. It was -- in those days they were, I think, the old Enfield rifles, the very bad 1910 [22:00] rifles. And I was looking and I saw that fly, and I started to laugh uncontrollably that this fly was in my gun sight. But the lieutenant came up to me and he didn't think it was so funny, so he made me wash all the windows in the barracks just because I didn't behave myself at the -- I don't know if I ever made marksman, but shortly after that I was suddenly transferred to Camp Ritchie, Maryland [22:24]. I didn't know what it was or why, but they had my rank and they knew that I was -- I was German speaking, and they decided -- this was in April, 1943. And at the time Camp Ritchie [22:43] was just being built. In fact, Sergeant Oz [22:47] [phonetic], the master sergeant of that camp, didn't have enough -- didn't have enough room for everybody because one of the barracks wasn't going to be finished for another three or four days. So, he had to let some of us go on a three-day pass [23:00]. Now, I had said tearful goodbye to my parents in New York three weeks earlier and said, "You won't see me for six months, if that." But then, the sergeant went around saying, "I want to -- I want to know who had the last pass." And when he came to me they said -- he asked me, "Schönebach [23:22], well when did you -- Private Schönebach [23:24], when did you have your last pass?" And I said, "Sergeant Oz [23:28], I haven't had a pass since I've been in the Army." He says, "You're allowed to go." He didn't know that I only had been in the army about a couple of months. So, I got home before --

my parents were surprised that I got home so early. And that's when I got the job with the telephone switchboard. And when I came back I operated the switchboard. I was in the fourth class of the Military Intelligence Training Sessions, [23:51]. That was fairly early, really. They were just beginning to do this and they had developed the program. And I remember [24:00] only a few things about it. I remember that they were teaching us, of course, a lot about navigation. They were giving us compass and azimuth. All this was new to me. I remember once they dropped us off in the middle of the night and told us to find our way back to the camp using a compass and azimuth. Of course, I was a German Jewish wise guy. I knew that I didn't have to do that. I could just follow a street. And so, I found a street and I followed it. And I never got to where I was supposed to go, and I got punished for it. But, apparently not too seriously -- but that's -- I remember doing that, because I thought I was being pretty smart. They -- I also remember that they had a bunch of American soldiers in German uniforms that were supposed to be our counterforce. And we were supposed to -- we were supposed to know how to deal with them. And we were taught interrogation of prisoners of war. And because I became involved indirectly with interrogation at Fort [25:00] -- Camp -- P.O. Box 1142 [25:03], I knew that we never used anything like what we see now in Iraq. But, instead, a cigarette did wonders. Just -- because even if we didn't smoke we'd start smoking a cigarette and, if they wanted to -- in fact, my relationship with German prisoners was very good because a German -- at the German Military Document Section [25:27], after the war, I made friends with a German prisoner who was a -- was an artist. And my father had written a book "How to Become a Stamp Dealer." And, for a couple of cartons of cigarette, this gentleman illustrated my book. I'll show it to you later on.

So, we did -- so, I remember that. Anyway, after -- and we were very close group of people in Camp Ritchie [25:56] at that time. Most of us were German Jewish. Most of us were -- many of them were [26:00] older than -- I was only -- 1943 I was 20 years old. And -- not even 20. And, for some reason that I don't remember -- but my documents show that I applied for the Military Intelligence Research Section [26:18]. There must have been some way to give people a chance to take a test. And I don't know why I passed. And, while humility is not my normal stock and trade, I still don't know why, because I wasn't a college graduate. I was tall and lanky, and pretty cocky. I was a jitterbug. I don't know why they would pick me for military intelligence research. So, I honestly don't know. But, for some reason, they picked me. And so, I was transferred to P.O. Box 1142 [26:54]. I still feel that was a ridiculous thing to call Fort Hunt [26:57] P.O. Box 1142 [26:59], because if we [27:00] danced -- and we did a lot of dancing at the USO and others, and if a potential Mata Hari [27:05] would ask us, "Where are you stationed," we would have to say, "P.O. Box 1142 [27:09]." And any good spy would -- her ears would pick up, because it isn't a normal name. But the military intelligence didn't always do the intelligent thing. In fact, something that you probably don't know is that, on D-Day [27:23], in order to throw off any potential spies, the Military Intelligence Section in the War Department decided to change offices. And they moved from one section of the Pentagon [27:37] to another. And we, at 1142 [27:41], took advantage of that and we commandeered a truck -- I mean we got a truck, because we needed some furniture. And, honest to God, we went to the Pentagon [27:51] on D-Day [27:53], and we found some desks in the hallway and we took the desks and put them on the truck and [28:00] took them back to P.O. Box 1142 [28:02], which was about 40 miles away. Now,

if we can do that on -- by Military Intelligence Service [28:07] on D-Day [28:08], no wonder we all screwed up. But that's a true story.

INT: We want to stay with Ritchie [28:14]. But, moving on --

INT: Yeah. This is going phenomenal, because you noticed Vince and I haven't had to say a -- you've answered every -- we have a typical list of questions we like to ask. You're answering them all. So, this is outstanding.

INT: He went right to D-Day [28:29], and --

INT: But we --

INT: I mean to Pearl Harbor [28:32].

INT: Yeah. No, you've touched upon everything. We might have to talk just to hear our own voices for a minute. But we do want to maybe finish up a little bit with Camp Ritchie [28:43], maybe ask you some specific questions about that, and then we'll move on to 1142 [28:47].

PF: Okay.

INT: If you want to start -- if you have specific things about Ritchie [28:51].

INT: Sure. When you were at Ritchie [28:53] you were involved in classwork. Do you know how long you were there at Ritchie [28:58]? Do you have a --

PF: Well, I know how long I was there [29:00], but I don't know how long the class was. Remember, I mean, I could've been there some time without being in a class all the time. I might have been at the telephone switchboard for a week or two before my class started. I might have been -- after I graduated from the class, from my fourth class, I might have been there a little longer. I -- the best I can do is give you a guess. And I think I got there in -- I got there about four or five weeks after January. So, that must have been

early March. And I think I wasn't there for more than three months I think -- three or four months at the most, approximately. And then I was moved to the Pentagon [29:36]. But -- to Camp Ritchie [29:38]. Now, you realize that Camp Ritchie [29:40] -- those of us at Camp Ritchie [29:41], we were also deeply connected with the Pentagon [29:44]. I want to make that clear. So -- not Camp Ritchie [29:47]. I'm misspeaking myself. Those of us at P.O. Box 1142 [29:51] were deeply connected with the Pentagon [29:53]. One of ours, Sergeant [Robert] Kleinman [29:55] was always stationed at the Pentagon [29:57]. We had a lot of liaison [30:00] with the offices in the Pentagon [30:02]. In fact, the reason we were recalled from England after 1944 was -- after a few weeks, is because the offices in the Pentagon [30:12] -- because their German wasn't as good as ours. Their research wasn't as good as ours. They needed us to prop them up. And so, they called us back out of the war office in England in order to -- which, of course, for those of us who were always somewhat cynical about the difference between enlisted men and officers -- we sort of felt that we were better than many other officers and that's why they needed us to come back. So, the relationship between P.O. Box 1142 [30:37], MIRS [30:38] people and the Pentagon [30:39] was very, very close. That's why we could get those desks on D-Day [30:43]. I'm sure that's a story you never heard.

INT: Believe it or not, did Dieter Kober [30:49] go on that trip?

PF: I don't remember.

INT: Because I -- that sounded vaguely -- I believe Dieter [30:55] told that story, but I don't think he remembered that it was on D-Day [30:58].

PF: Yeah. Well, I remember.

INT: He remembered [31:00] going to the Pentagon [31:01] and stealing office furniture.

PF: Yeah. Well, it was on D-Day [31:04].

INT: That's amazing. That really is. So -- go ahead.

INT: The course, or courses that you took -- were there classroom courses as well as field related activity?

PF: Yes. We had classes. And we'd been taught how to use compasses and azimuth, and how to do interrogation. And then, they -- as I told you, they dropped us in the middle of the night and made us find our way home with a compass and an azimuth. So, there's a good example of the field work we had to do.

INT: Do you remember the kinds of things that you learned in the classroom, like order of battle or weaponry?

PF: I didn't learn anything about any -- no. I don't think we learned anything about order of battle at the time. I don't even know -- I didn't even know what it was. But we learned everything that ever -- interrogator of prisoners of war had to know. So, we learned -- at the time when we graduated from fourth class we were supposed to be [32:00] ready to go into the field to become interrogators -- IPW, interrogators of prisoners of war.

INT: Field interrogators.

PF: Field interrogators.

INT: Then -- this could be a short answer or this could be a long answer. They taught you everything you needed to know about being an interrogator. What did they teach you?

PF: It's going to be a short answer because you're asking me to remember something that happened many, many years ago. And I don't want to -- I don't want to mislead you or fake anything. I just -- in looking through some of the documents that I've looked through since meeting you, Brandon, I begin to --

[End of Tape 1A]

[Beginning of Tape 1B]

PF: I know.

INT: That whole section just right there.

PF: I'd be glad to. I'm not sure that I remember it exactly, but I do believe that they -- for instance, they would give us typical questions to ask. And they would -- they would probably -- and, again, I'm interpolating a little bit here, but they probably would set us up against each other, because I have -- I have in my documents, in German -- and I showed them to you. You may or may not have made copies of it, but I'll refer them to you again. I've had copies of humorous questions that we set up in order to sort of make fun of the lessons. I have several examples of humorous interrogation. "When did you last sleep with your wife?" Or things like that that would be funny to young soldiers. But I -- the fact that we -- the fact that I have those tells me [01:00] that they did give us pre-scripted questionnaires, and they put us in settings in which we learned how to interrogate. And I do -- I would say without being able to swear it, after reading about Abu Ghraib Prison [01:19] in Iraq, I am almost convinced that nothing of that type was ever taught to us then because it would have been considered, as it is now, counterproductive. Our job was to illicit information in the most efficient way possible. And I remember -- or maybe I don't. Maybe I'm -- maybe I'm guessing at this, that we were taught to do this intelligently and carefully and not in any kind of brutal way. But, again, I don't think you can hold me to that firmly, because one's memory really -- I was young [02:00] then.

INT: [affirmative]

INT: I'm just trying to think anything else related to Ritchie [02:09]. Your class -- do you recall about how large -- how many men were in your class at Ritchie [02:14]?

PF: I'd have to guess. I'd say 30.

INT: Okay.

PF: I met -- I met -- I met my very best friend, Sergeant Joseph Winter [02:27], who had been in the class before me. And he was from southern Germany, from Bavaria, and he had a strong Bavarian accent. And he was a sergeant by that time. I was a private. And -- Private Schönebach [02:42], and he -- we got to be good friends. And the thing that I found strange about him -- he would say to his men, "Line up, gosh darn it." And I had never heard "gosh darn it" in the Army before. He wouldn't use the normal language. He would say, "Gosh darn it." He was that kind of a guy [03:00]. He got to be my very best friend. We were friends for -- I was the best man at his wedding. I still visit his widow -- just recently in Chicago. And he was in an earlier class, and he actually went overseas, and he was in the Battle of Bastogne [03:18]. And his German accent caused him some very real dangers, because at the time when, as you may know, the -- many of the German -- some of the German S.S. men dressed up in American uniforms. And they were ultimately shot by the Americans as spies, which was legal. And -- but he, with the strong German accent -- his life was really in danger. He was a member of the 7th Army [03:43], and at night once he came out and a soldier challenged him. And he answered with a German accent. And that -- fortunately he wasn't killed right then and there. Somebody came to his rescue. But that's sort of an interesting sideline, which I think you need to know. It was dangerous [04:00]. But he was there, and he went all the way with the 7th Army [04:04] through the Remagen Bridge [04:05] that you know about.

You know the bridge that we captured intact. And so, he went all the way through.

INT: When -- in going through some of these documents earlier, you were naturalized while you were at Camp Ritchie [04:19]?

PF: I was naturalized approximately three months later in Hagerstown Maryland. And, at that point, because my father changed his name from Schönebach [04:28] to Fairbrook [04:29], which is the translation in a sense. Schöne is beautiful and bach is brook. I also changed -- we all changed -- my sister, and my younger brother, my mother -- of course my -- and my brother, my twin brother tried it for a few weeks and decided he didn't want to be Fairbrook [04:49]. And I said, "But everyone's going to pronounce it as schone back [phonetic]," and he says, "I don't care." So, he continued his life as Uriel Schönebach [05:00], and I as Paul Fairbrook [05:02]. But that's when I got my citizenship. And it was a very simple ceremony. It was automatic, because as I told you earlier we used to say to each other that they didn't want us to die as enemy aliens, they wanted us to die as American citizens. That's why they did -- but it's still a practice today, as you probably know. People that are serving in the Army become citizens fairly quickly.

INT: Your brother -- and we might want to speak about him from time to time, because he -- your brother was at 1142 [05:32] late in the war?

PF: No. He was at GMDS [05:35].

INT: He was at GMDS [05:36] at Ritchie [05:36].

PF: Yeah. He had -- he had applied for officer's training at -- in Georgia at the Officer's Training School. The name of the camp escapes me right now. But he broke his leg in training. And, because I was at the Pentagon [05:52], which meant that I had access to

the personnel people, and because I think there was some sort of obscure rule that twin brothers [06:00] could maybe be assigned to the same place -- I'm not sure about that. In any case, I got him transferred to GMDS [06:06], and I was delighted with that.

INT: What is GMDS [06:10]?

PF: German Military Document Section [06:12]. And it was created shortly after the war. And it became kind of a library -- not a research thing, a library information gathering -- document gathering and organizing place where we had so many documents, and our job -- and you've seen some photographs of that. Our job was to take this large massive documents, organize them. At the time, too, we had some German officers who were prisoners nearby, and many of us German Jewish soldiers resented the fact that some of our officers were fraternizing with German officers, Nazis to us. To us every German officer was a Nazi. And here [07:00] we are fighting as German Jews for America and these jerks -- officers are fraternizing with the people that were our enemies. But that's just part of life.

INT: Your brother, Uri, did he go through Ritchie [07:14] at all?

PF: No. He never did.

INT: Okay.

PF: No.

INT: Okay.

INT: Do you remember names of any individuals that were at Ritchie [07:25] at the same time you were?

PF: The reason -- first of all, I told you about Joseph Winter [07:33] just now.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: Just now. It's very hard for me to distinguish between the men who I knew at Ritchie [07:41] who came with me to 1142 [07:42], and the ones I met there. It's asking too much from me, because I know these people intimately because there were only about 18 or 20 of us in 1142 [07:52], and there were many more people there. I do remember Sergeant Oz [07:56] that I mentioned to you, that gave me a three-day pass. I also remember Paul Warburg [08:00] [phonetic] -- was that his name? The famous tenor who -- he was in charge of the entertainment at the Camp Ritchie [08:07], and he sang "Ol' Man River." He's a famous singer, long before your times. I think his name is -- tall African American man. I think his name is Paul Warburg [08:17] [NOTE: His real name was William Warfield.]

INT: Dan Gross has found records for him.

INT: Yes.

PF: And he --

INT: Do you want him to tell us about that on tape?

INT: Sure. If you'd like to -- is there any more you remember about that? We actually -- we have a volunteer who's working with us who is extraordinarily interested and very familiar with Ritchie [08:34], and he's trying to kind of paint the picture --

PF: Paul Warburg, he was in charge of the theater. And he -- and that was his job. He was -- I don't know what his formal title was, but I think he was in charge of the entertainment. And he made such an impression on me because I remember him singing "Ol' Man River." And later on, he became famous, but at the time I remember him as a very nice man who -- but, frankly, other than that -- I'm sure that some of the men [09:00], like Hertzberg [09:01] [phonetic] and Behrens [09:03], Walter Behrens [09:04], whom I know

particularly well -- I kept my friendship with him. And Harold Solmssen [09:09]. I have a feeling that all of these men were with me at Camp Ritchie [09:13], but I can't tell you for sure.

INT: And so, I guess we'll get to it, but who did you know at 1142 [09:20] that you also knew at Ritchie [09:22]?

PF: I think I just answered that.

INT: Yes.

INT: That's what he's saying. It's difficult.

INT: Right.

PF: I can't tell you.

INT: Right. Okay. You have a copy of the Ritchie Boys book here. I presume you've read that.

PF: I've seen the movie and I read some of the book. Yes.

INT: Do you have any comments relative to that?

PF: Well, I have -- I was delighted to see that this film was made. I thought it was -- the film, not rather the book. I mean I can read the book in German. I haven't read it in detail. I probably will someday soon. But my comments are that Mr. Bauer [09:58] who did this film [10:00] did a wonderful job. And I thought that the way he handled it -- in fact it was so wonderful that I went to my local synagogue, as well as the history department at the University of the Pacific [10:12], where I worked for 20 years, and I got them jointly to sponsor a showing of that film. And the theater was packed. And everybody really enjoyed the film as being interesting, and humorous, and factual, and very well done. So, those are my comments.

INT: Do you ever hear of the term the Ritchie girls? -- not necessarily in the military.

PF: No. I never heard of that.

INT: Okay. Were there any women at Camp Ritchie [10:41]?

PF: Well, there's an interesting story about that. The place which I now believe is called Camp David [10:51] -- I believe that's the place, right up the hill, which at the time was a camp for women, young women [11:00] -- a summer camp. And I remember one of our gang -- and, probably if I think hard enough I'll think of his name, but I probably wouldn't give it to you even if I thought of it. He would take his blanket at night and he'd go up to that camp. How he got in I don't know. But he'd always come back with a big smile on his face and we all speculated what he was doing up there. And that's a true story.

INT: It still exists.

PF: Yeah. And it was right up the hill. And I think it was Camp David [11:31] on the other -
-

INT: It still exists.

PF: And I remember that he used to go all the time. And we were jealous, of course. We didn't have the courage to do anything like that.

INT: Dieter Kober [11:45] had mentioned that there was a blue light building at Camp Ritchie [11:50], with a blue light outside. And if somebody went out and had particular exploits or something they were supposed to stop by the blue light building on their way back.

PF: I don't remember [12:00].

INT: Oh.

PF: Sorry.

INT: All right. That's quite alright. We just like capturing some of these anecdotal stories.

PF: Well, that story of the young man going up there -- it was a subject of much conversation, including some of the exploits that we had. I remember once going to Maryland and going to a dance in Maryland. I went alone and I was at a -- I was at a place, kind of a bar, a dance bar, and there was -- there was a woman who was doing the entertaining. And she was not a stripteaser, but she was a dancer, almost like a stripteaser, and she was -- her name was Electra, and she -- and I remember she was dancing with a big paratrooper and she kept wanting me to cut in. And I would cut in on the paratrooper there would be suicide. But she got rid of him for a reason that I still don't know she decided that she wanted -- she came to me, and [13:00] she invited me to her place. She said, but you got to be out in the morning because I want to take a sunbath. Well, I took her up on it, as many soldiers would. Then, of course, we bragged about it when we came back home. That was always a subject of interesting conversations. I remember Electra. But I never saw her again after that, even though I would have liked to. But that was -- those are little experiences that we all had. One of the things that I do remember though, and that's more important is that I made a friendship with a young woman whose first name was Betty. I don't remember her last name, who lived in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania [13:33], not far from Camp Ritchie [13:34]. And I remember I was invited there every Sunday when I got off and we would go. And I remember the pleasure, the long table full of wonderful food that this family had for Sunday brunch. And, of course, for me as a soldier this was -- although the food I think in the Army was much better we ever admitted, now that I'm a food service director I can think back and realize that [14:00] they fed us pretty well. But, of course, we would never admit it, just like college

students would never admit that dorm food can be good, even though I assure you that it is. But I would go to this family -- to Betty's family on Sundays in Waynesboro [14:15] and had the most marvelous meal -- pies and ham and eggs, and whatever you would think this whole table. And so, I remember -- many of us went to Waynesboro [14:23]. In fact, when we went to either Waynesboro [14:26] or Hagerstown [14:27] and on D -- on V-J Day [14:31], I think it was we all went to Hagerstown [14:34] and we all celebrated in Hagerstown [14:37], which -- Hagerstown, Maryland, [14:37] was not very far from there.

INT: You were presumably in a -- in a -- in a German interrogation training program. Did you know if there was an equivalent Italian training program?

PF: No, I don't.

INT: You said a lot of the Ritchie Boys were German born.

PF: Yes.

INT: Were --

PF: Most of them.

INT: Were the instructors also German born [15:00]?

PF: That's a very good question and I think my answer is no. I can't swear to this at all, but I don't think so. I think they were American military officers, some noncoms, high ranking noncoms, who had been trained to teach us. And I don't think I remember a -- no. The answer would be -- my guess would be no.

INT: We actually met one and interviewed one instructor at Ritchie [15:31]. His name was Ernest Sohms [15:33], H-O -- S-O-H-M-S. Probably don't remember.

PF: Was he German Jewish?

INT: No. I don't think so.

PF: No. I don't think so.

INT: When you were at Ritchie [15:46] and you received your training, your general IPW training, general military intelligence training, again your impression was that, from there, you were going to go overseas or join an infantry unit.

PF: Yeah. That was what we were trained for [16:00].

INT: You -- did you then receive additional training at Ritchie [16:06] in -- or military documents, order of battle, or --

PF: No. Order of battle. In fact, among the documents that I gave you there is something which we can resuscitate, because I have it handy here, where I applied, I guess, among others to go to this order of battle school. This was the time when I wanted to be an officer in the infantry and I couldn't decide whether I wanted that more than to go to order of battle school. But, because I flunked my examination for officers' candidate school, I then went to order of battle school. And, apparently, I got a fairly high mark. Again, without seeming unnaturally modest, I still don't know why I was chosen. I was a young 20-year old man. I had had experience as a room clerk and as a waiter. I had experience [17:00] dealing with the public. I was an extrovert. I, obviously, as you can tell by my response to your question -- so, I wasn't bashful and maybe that helped.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: But I certainly didn't have any experience in research. And most of the people at P.O. Box 1142 [17:14] were college graduates with a very fine background. And Dieter Kober [17:19] and I -- we were the youngest, and we were, as I like to use the word, "enfants terribles." So, I don't know why I was picked.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: But, yeah. There was a separate school on order of battle. And I assumed there we learned quite a bit about order of battle.

INT: Do you remember if you met Dieter [17:41] at 1142 [17:43], or if he was in your --

PF: I don't remember.

INT: Okay.

PF: I think -- I think I didn't meet him at 1142 [17:47]. I don't remember meeting him --

INT: So, you might have known him before --

PF: No. I'm sorry. I didn't answer that correctly. I met him at 1142 [17:55].

INT: Not at Ritchie [17:56]?

PF: That's right.

INT: Okay. All right. Because he was relaying how he had [18:00] -- similarly, he had done IPW training and then applied for or somehow been selected for this OB -- I think he said it was about a four-week course or something like that.

PF: Yes. That's about right.

INT: At Ritchie [18:13], where he remembered having to just really -- basically just memorize, memorize, memorize tons of information.

PF: He remembers more than I do.

INT: Okay.

PF: I don't remember.

INT: Okay. Did you participate in any of these mock field interrogations where they had German -- Americans dressed up as Germans?

PF: I honestly don't remember. I'm sorry, Vince. I just don't remember.

INT: Do you -- it might be hard to recall now, but did you ever hear about 1142 [18:45] while you were at Ritchie [18:46] before you went to 1142 [18:48]?

PF: Not a clue.

INT: Okay.

PF: Maybe in order of battle -- maybe in order of battle school they might have mentioned it. By that time, I was practically ready to go to 1142 [18:58]. But, again, I couldn't swear to that [19:00]. Certainly, not before going to battle school.

INT: And last question, particularly because you were there early. Do you recall -- were there any British military at Ritchie [19:11] involved in training or any role at all at Ritchie [19:16]?

PF: I don't remember. I know -- I know a lot about the British military liaison officers whom I met at 1142 [19:28], and I can tell you a lot about them because I got to be very good friends with one of them or two -- very good friends actually, and visited them in England later. But at Ritchie [19:38] I can't speak to that.

INT: Okay. Good.

INT: I'm going to move on to 1142 [19:44] if that's okay.

INT: That was great. Thank you. That was great.

INT: Okay. What do you recall about your transfer to 1142 [19:55]?

PF: Well [20:00], not much about my transfer. I can tell you exactly what we met when we got there. But the transfer itself was insignificant. I got orders to report there, and somehow I got there, and I don't even know how I got there, but I got there.

INT: So -- got you. So, you just received orders that said, "You're transferred to P.O. Box 1142 [20:22]?"

PF: I have a copy of the orders.

INT: Okay.

PF: In fact --

INT: Yeah. So, we -- and we do. And I actually brought them with us, so we have all those.

PF: Yeah. So, I was transferred and I got there, and there was a barracks. It was a very simple barracks. You walked in there. And the right hand side there was the -- there was the -- well, the map room, if you will. There was -- this was where the officers had their office. And this was where Sergeant [Hans] Kienle [20:43] played a very important role, because Sergeant Kienle [20:47] didn't speak German I don't think -- if so, very little or none. But he was brilliant at making these beautiful maps and histograms which officers [21:00] like in order to hide their own ignorance. You know they make these big charts with colored pictures and -- even today if you watch -- if you watch the Secretary of Defense talking to Congress [21:14] they always have some slides that they like to blow their -- blow up their importance with. And that was -- that's what got us high marks from the people in the Pentagon [21:27], because Sergeant Kienle [21:29] was brilliant. Whatever we did, whatever we found out, his office was there to make -- he'd take these big white sheets or whatever they were and make them beautiful and take them to the Pentagon [21:40] and show what we are doing. I remember Sergeant Kienle [21:43] very, very fondly because he had that talent of like an interior designer that none of us had. And he did that and he did it in a wonderful way. That I remember. And I do remember the officers were there -- First Lieutenant Bettilyon [Vernen] [22:00], and then Lieutenant Kluge [John] [22:02], and -- oh yes. And then, of course, we had a couple of British lieutenants there. And there was even a major there -- Major -- you probably have

his name Burns [22:13], or -- with a B, I think. There was major attached to us for some time. These were all people that were seconded to our units from the British army and to work with us. There was a Sergeant Horton Smith [22:28], very good friend of mine. There was a Sergeant Mowatt [G.] [22:32] -- I mean Lieutenant Smith [22:34]. There was a Sergeant Mowatt [22:35] who got to be very good friends of mine and friends of -- and we visited him several times in England. I visited Horton Smith [22:43] when he was a professor at one of the universities in London in England. And they were there all the time. They had their offices to the right. Now, to the left, continuing with the physical description, there was a very large room in which -- in which there were probably [23:00], on each side of the room, about 10 desks. And each of us had a desk and a little filing cabinet -- little filing cabinet and a little box with cards in front of us. Those cards were very important, incidentally, because those cards were what we used in order to collect the information that would lead us to conclusions. And, in order to tell you how, I for instance, did my job -- my job was to collect information about German units and what they were like, and what they had, and what they did, and what their armament was and things like that. What we did is we collected information from various sources and we put these on cards the way you have crib cards for tests. And we catalogued them. I'll give you a specific example. We used German pay books as a very good source, in addition to German military newspapers and things like that. And, if a German soldier got [24:00] in the award -- let's say he got a -- he got a ribbon or something. There would be a stamp in his pay book which would probably read, "Pa/252/j." Well, if I got several pay books like that with the same rubber stamp and the cards are behind it and each -- and then I would read in the German military newspaper

that Colonel so and so got that order, by order of -- and then there was "Pa/252" -- then I knew, "Wait a minute." After I saw that two or three times in the newspaper with always the signature of that "Pa," we would know that that was the office in the military headquarters, in the military -- in the O Company, which gave out orders, gave out ribbons and stuff. And you see by -- and that's how we would be able to interpolate what each unit does. Now, I've given you [25:00] one specific example. But you have to multiply that 1,000 times and -- I remember once somebody came home drunk and took one of my card files and threw them up in the air. And I was just crushed, because all my cards that I had carefully assembled -- oh my goodness. It took me days to get that back together again. But you have to understand, that's how we did it. You see? And that's why, after a year or so we were able to really have the information that the Red Book [25:36] needed, the order of battle book needed to give. So, we were able to really identify most of the units and what they did.

INT: Outstanding. Before I forget, we're going to have a ton of specific questions to ask in the end, but you mentioned a name that I want to just quickly touch upon before I forgot.

One [26:00] of the officers -- he's on this list you listed. His name was Bettilyon [26:06].

PF: Yeah, Bettilyon [26:07], Lieutenant Bettilyon.

INT: Is that how you pronounce it, Bettilyon [26:09]?

PF: Yeah. I think so. Yeah.

INT: He, we believe, is actually still alive.

PF: He's in America.

INT: He's in -- I believe in Salt Lake City [26:17]. And we're in the process of trying to get in touch with him.

PF: Well, please give him my regards.

INT: Absolutely.

PF: I'm sure that -- we were all very close. What about a Major Burney [phonetic] [26:26] or someone like that, a British Major? Major something with a B?

INT: That's something that -- you named some names of Americans and British. And, maybe if you could differentiate and let us know which ones were American.

PF: Okay. Horton Smith [26:38] was British. Lieutenant Horton Smith [26:40].

INT: [affirmative] And he was largely stationed out with the Pentagon [26:44]?

PF: No.

INT: Or was he at 1142 [26:47] most of the time?

PF: I'm talking about the people that were with us at 1142 [26:50].

INT: At 1142 [26:50]. Okay.

PF: Lieutenant Horton Smith [26:52]. He got to be a lecturer in German at Nottingham University [26:56] -- that's when we visited him. And Sergeant [27:00] Mowatt [27:01]. I forget his first name -- M-O-W-A-T-T, a very nice man. His German was -- the British -- the British sent people that whose German was impeccable. I mean -- well impeccable is too much. They didn't have that. They had the accent, but their German was very good. So, that was Sergeant Mowatt [27:18]. And then there was a Major B, something - - Burney [27:22] or -- I'm sorry. Maybe you'll come across it. But I remember that there was a lieutenant -- major assigned to us.

INT: And he was British as well.

PF: He was British. Yeah. Correct.

INT: Were these British tied directly to MIRS [27:39], or did they work with MIS-Y [27:41]?

PF: I think they were seconded to MIS [27:43] for a short period of time to work with us.
Just like we were seconded to the war office in London when we went to London.

INT: Was it Burley [27:53]? Major Burley [27:54]?

PF: Yeah. That's it. Yeah. He was British [28:00]. And, of course, Lieutenant [Norbert] Erteshek [28:05]. I remember him. I remember him because in 1944 he talking about the fact he was going to follow a career in ballpoint pens, which as you may or may not know were just then on the process of being invented -- 1945. And he was going to go into that. And I wish I kept track of him. I found on the internet that he died somewhere in the 60s. But -- I think in Utah, but I'm not sure. But, in any case, he would -- he was a very interesting man, and probably did very well in the -- with his ballpoint pens.

INT: And he -- it appears on here -- he was American. He was not British.

PF: Oh, yeah. American, but I -- he may have been of European descent.

INT: Okay.

PF: It may be Eastern Europe.

INT: We've got about three, four -- three minutes left.

INT: We have about three minutes left on this tape and then we'll have to take a little break and [29:00] switch things out.

PF: That's okay.

INT: But I guess, to try to go back to generalizations, and our beginnings for 1142 [29:10], when you arrived at 1142 [29:12], were you sat down and briefed, "Here's what -- here's what we do here?" Or was this a brand-new operation? Were you among one of the first people, or was it already ongoing when you got there?

PF: I have to interpolate here because to say that I remember clearly is not telling the truth.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: My guess is that it was a new operation. I don't think any of us had done it. Somebody had decided -- in fact, if I remember correctly, we started out in the Pentagon [29:43], working in the Pentagon [29:45] for a short period of time. And then we were transferred. I mean, we lived already in P.O. Box 1142 [29:53], but I think we worked in the Pentagon [29:55] because I remember fairly clearly that I spent quite a time in the Pentagon [29:59] before being [30:00] moved over there.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: So, I think it was a -- it was an organization in the -- in the creation with Major Bissell [30:08] or Lieutenant, Colonel Bissell [30:10] -- General Bissell [30:11] was the one that was -- whose name I remember as being very important in this whole thing. And he probably was one of the people that created this whole idea. You probably have information about Mr. Bissell [30:24], General Bissell [30:25].

INT: He was the chief of G-2?

PF: Well, I think you have his signature on some of the documents --

INT: Yes.

PF: -- that I have. But he was certainly -- yeah. I think he probably was. And we were -- we were called Military Intelligence Research Section [30:39] of the War Department General Staff G-2. That was our official name. And if you don't have that written down I'll repeat it. Military Intelligence Research Section [30:48] of the War Department General Staff G-2. That was our formal designation. So, I think -- as I'm thinking back - - and hopefully some others [31:00] can confirm that, is that we started in the Pentagon [31:03] and then it was shifted -- our work was shifted to 1142 [31:07].

INT: Okay.

INT: So, from Ritchie [31:10] to live at 1142 [31:13], maybe July of '43?

PF: Don't pin me down. I can't tell you exactly. I think maybe, if I got there -- if I got there in March or early April and I was there for three months -- April, May, June -- yeah. That's probably correct.

INT: And we can check, because I think, as you mentioned we have your transfer orders.

PF: Yeah. You have my transfer.

INT: So, with that, we should call it quits for this particular tape.

PF: Okay. Well, would you like a cold drink? I've got 7-Up or orange juice.

[End of Tape 1B]

[Beginning of Tape 2A]

PF: -- talking about the doves, the pigeons, of which I remember only very little.

INT: Oh, right.

PF: But you just struck some sort of a chord.

INT: Let me go ahead and give a brief introduction and we'll jump right in. Today is February 15, 2008. This is a second in a series of interviews for the Fort Hunt Oral History Project with the National Park Service. We are here in Stockton, California [00:29], at the home of Mr. Paul Fairbrook [00:31] a veteran of the Military Intelligence Research Section [00:35] at P.O. Box 1142 [00:37]. This is Brandon Bies, as well as Vincent Santucci of the National Park Service. And, with that, there are a couple of things we were talking about in the break. Let's talk about the most recently we were talking about, and that was that you mentioned that kind of I guess, as for fun or whatnot, you kept a file of some of the German -- the [01:00] prostitutes and whatnot that you found records for, but the

Germans were using.

PF: I didn't find the records. I just remembered them very well.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: As part of our entertainment.

INT: Sure.

PF: For ourselves. And we would collect the sexually interesting materials that the soldiers, the captured German soldiers, carried in their pay books. Very often they had sexually explicit photographs, which aroused not only them but us as well. Actually had photographs of women, fornication -- some cartoons with rather very suggestive cartoons, and some poems that were sexually explicit, and addresses of women who were clearly prostitutes. And we kept that to amuse ourselves. We kept kidding ourselves, "When you go to Europe [02:00] you'll have the address of" -- I don't think that ever went beyond 1142 [02:04], but that was -- that was sort of a -- especially we younger ones like Dieter Kober [02:09] and myself. We were just -- I mean the older -- some of the people like Harold Solmssen [02:15] and Herman Gieschen [02:16] -- they were serious religious men who didn't dabble in that kind of stuff. But some of us younger ones we were just young and we did that kind of thing, and it was kind of fun to do that. We were -- we discovered something in somebody's pay book that was like that we would just make a big deal out of it.

INT: The other thing -- totally switching subjects, that we talked about a little bit in the break. You were reminded -- we were reading through the poem about Ritchie [02:44], and there was a mention of pigeons.

PF: Yes. I'm reminded of that without, unfortunately, having a clear idea, but I remember -- I

remember very vaguely -- you've just reminded me and I'm afraid going to stultify [03:00] you by being -- not being able to give you many details. But picture somehow in my memory as something that maybe we were trained at Camp Ritchie [03:12], not at P.O. Box 1142 [03:14]. If, if, if my memory's correct, the fact that pigeons could be used to relay information back to the headquarters from our interrogation -- that may have been the subject of our discussion and we may actually have had some pigeon training, but not at 1142 [03:34] that I remember.

INT: Okay. And in pigeons you mean for communication?

PF: Yes. For communication.

INT: Okay.

PF: And I'm -- did you want -- did you want to -- me to translate this fake interrogation that -
-

INT: Oh, if you wouldn't mind doing that. Because that was very interesting, because -- I mean, do you know if that was something that you wrote up -- did you write that for humor or just as a kind of a mock -- I mean, is this closely [04:00] resemble what an interrogation could've been like?

PF: I would be speculating.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: I would be -- to answer that I would be speculating. It's -- I'll read it to you.

INT: Sure.

PF: And you'll see -- you'll see. I will try to read it as literally as I can, even if some of the questions are rather risqué.

INT: Great.

PF: Okay. The interrogator: "What's your name?" Answer: "Siegfried Buller [phonetic]."

"Okay Buller. Describe your circumstances of your imprisonment." "Well, the Americans didn't make much fuss. They stuck me with a toothpick." "Where was that?"

"Well, where do you think? In my ass." "I mean in what place?" "How do I know where it was? We were at some town. I don't remember these crazy names." "Was it City [unintelligible]?" And remember, this was North Africa, because that's the only place where we got prisoners from in those days [05:00]. "Yeah, of course. I'm impressed with your memory. I can't remember such crap." "I would like you to resist such descriptions. Please stick to the matter." "What matter?" "Answer my questions or we're going to take care of it." "You're going to take care of me. What, with hot chocolate and whipped cream?" "Now, listen. Before I listen to you any more, I want to make it clear that my questions are going to be answered clearly, shortly, and to the point. I don't want to use further steps, but I can use them if I want to." "No you can't. I'm not that dumb. I don't fall for this kind of bologna. I've listened to many lectures about the Geneva Convention that I -- that you can scare me with that." "What's your grade, Buller?" "I'm a master sergeant." "Well, then you've got enough [06:00] intelligence to understand what I'm going to tell you now. You don't seem to be very clear in what position you find yourself. Sure, you think that the -- that the law protects you in certain way -- protects you from certain treatment. But I don't necessarily stick to that, especially since you bombed Rotterdam. Ever since then our office says they've given us freedom to do whatever we want to. You'll be -- your treatment is going to depend upon your obedience. So, what's your part -- what type of units were you in?" "I was in a heavy mortar squadron." "By which -- by which battalion?" "Listen, Mr. Captain --

listen, captain. I'm not a stool pigeon [07:00]. I'd rather die before I rat on my comrades." "Don't be so dumb. That what I'm asking you already know. I just want to know if you can behave -- you can behave yourself." "I'm going to tell you. It was in the 8th Battalion in the 91st Panzer Division." "Okay. Now, what did you do since you've been a prisoner?" "I helped my sergeant." "What does he do?" "Well, he slipped." "Please don't give me such dirty jokes. What was the job of your battalion?" "We had -- we had to do a counter -- a counter offensive." Interrogator: "Please don't tell me that your battalion attacked our entire division. That's impossible [08:00]." "Well, I heard on the radio that it was only a fake attack." "Why?" "Because we wanted to cover the retreat of our division." "The 21st?" "Yes. I told you that already." "Are you a single man?" "Yes." And that's the end of the interrogation. So, maybe I did try to write something that was fairly close to what we were supposed to do.

INT: There's no date or anything on there?

PF: No date on this.

INT: Okay.

PF: But I tried to translate for you as well as I could.

INT: Yeah. That's fantastic. That's very, very helpful. We probably like many -- I have to check if we -- if you included a copy of that or if we can make a copy.

PF: No. I don't think so. We can make copies of it.

INT: Fantastic. Well, let's talk a little bit more -- again, a lot of what we're going to want to talk about are going to be Vince and I trying to pull out as much detail about what you remember out about 1142 [08:59] and MIRS [09:00]. So, we talked about this a little bit in the last tape. When you got there you were -- you had your own building that MIRS

[09:09] was in.

PF: Yes.

INT: Was this just -- there was one building for MIRS [09:13]?

PF: One building for work, and one building for sleeping -- one barracks.

INT: The barracks that you slept in -- was that just for MIRS [09:20] personnel, or were other people from the camp also in your barracks?

PF: I think -- I remember only MIRS [09:27] persons. I told you I remember Dieter Kober [09:29] standing on the footlocker conducting to his records. And no. I think -- I think just MIRS [09:38], particularly since we used to make fun of the occasional inspections. You know, theoretically, if you dropped a quarter on your bed after it was made it was supposed to turn over.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And if it didn't you got punished. And I remember I learned how to make a hospital bed there -- you know, we really -- but of course we always made fun of it because we intelligence officers. And we didn't think that we had to go through this [10:00] chicken shit that other soldiers had to go through. We always felt we were a little bit special, because how can you force somebody to create intelligence. So, we always felt we were a little bit above that. We certainly didn't have -- we certainly didn't have the kind of disciplinary problems or disciplinary challenges that the typical soldier had. Sure, we had to -- I don't even remember whether we had to stand for -- in the morning for inspection. It was a minimum of that, really a minimum. We were treated like researchers by our officers, and of course when we got to the Pentagon [10:38] -- whenever we were at the Pentagon [10:38] we saluted every major of the -- that's

different. But on our own campus we were treated like researchers and not like soldiers that had to -- a lot of discipline. That much I do recall.

INT: When you first arrived at 1142 [10:55], or I should say when you were first assigned to MIRS [10:59] -- I guess you think you may [11:00] have actually been to the Pentagon [11:01] first and then 1142 [11:03].

PF: The work, yes. It seems to me.

INT: And do you remember what your first task was, both as -- what the overall mission of MIRS [11:11] was, and what particularly you were assigned to do, at least initially?

PF: I think it was an orientation experience. I was not assigned to my specific assignment, which was the unit -- identification of German units and the description of the organization of the German high command. That was my specialty later. But it was -- I wasn't assigned until I got to the barracks at 1142 [11:38] and started to get the material from the -- from the African Corps, the captured -- we used to get duffel bags full of materials. And we'd go in and take them out and see what we could find. And you have some examples of some of that. But, in the Pentagon [11:52], I remember working with the -- in military intelligence, but I don't -- I have a feeling. Again, I'm guessing [12:00]. I have a feeling it was mostly orientation just to get us sort of started. And I don't remember specifically what we did there.

INT: Do you have a sense that when you arrived, those were the first days of MIRS [12:12], or were there already some folks there that --

PF: I really feel it was the beginning. I don't think they had it until we came.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: They needed to write the order of battle book. That was their function. And they needed

to get started. And it took a year and a half before it was finished. And, when it was finished, some of us -- I mean, here's the order of battle book and I have it -- and when it was finished I believe that -- I mean it was dated 1st of March, 1945. We'd already won the war by then. And, while I think a few earlier samples were issued to the officers before D-Day [12:50], I think that the book itself came too late for the European theater, which is sort of a strange [13:00] [unintelligible] impression that I have, even though it's a very hard to create something that was supposed to help the field officer. By the time we got the book finished and it was ready, which was really wonderful, the war was almost over.

INT: And that supports one of the things that I remember having read in the MIRS [13:25] report. Apparently -- do you remember or have any recollection of there being an earlier version of the Red Book [13:33]?

PF: No. But in reading over some of the material that I've read since you've contacted me, I seem to have read once or twice that we had issued earlier versions of it to the field. In fact, if I come across it again, I'll fax it to you so that you have a clear proof of it. But it's among the material that I have -- I read something about it.

INT: Because that was one of the things that -- and, again, I [14:00] don't want to put words in your mouth. But, from what I remember reading, it sounded like there was an earlier version of a Red Book [14:07]. In fact, several other books that were mentioned -- a pink book, a yellow book, that all had different concentrations that they focused on.

PF: I have a feeling that -- I have a feeling that we didn't let this information go to waste as we were collecting it. I'm sure that that's -- I'm sure that's -- for instance, when we got the -- when we captured the documents, which described Hitler's orders to invade Russia,

that is Operation Barbarossa [14:39], or Hitler's order to invade Norway or Crete, of which you have copies, that was quite a find because it placed the responsibility directly where it belonged, which I'm sure was helpful in the Nuremberg [14:55] no, my wife.

INT: No. That's my phone.

PF: At Nuremberg [14:59] and everything else [15:00]. I mean, that was quite a discovery to get those orders directly.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: We didn't often get such good documents.

INT: So, these were actual documents that were later used in the Nuremberg trials [15:18]?

PF: I can't tell you that.

INT: Okay.

PF: I'd expect it.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: If we wanted to place responsibility the basic orders that attacking Russia would certainly be a --

INT: Right.

PF: -- a major document.

INT: Because I think I recall you had copies of some other -- I remember Operation Barbarossa [15:33] being mentioned in some of the documents that we --

PF: Yes. Detailed copies of how it was going to happen.

INT: Yeah.

PF: In Crete and Norway.

INT: Do you remember how you came across these documents?

PF: Yeah. When we opened the duffel bags that were shipped to us from Africa.

INT: And so, they weren't sorted in any way.

PF: Oh, no. Big duffel bag and we all got pieces of it and we would give it to the different people.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: I don't know if you're interested but I could [16:00] also describe for you specifically the personalities and backgrounds to some extent of some of the people I remember at MIRS [16:11]. I don't know if that's of any interest.

INT: We would really like that, particularly because we may not locate too many more members of MIRS [16:19]. So, your recollections are extremely important for us to kind of paint that picture.

PF: Well, let me just go through some of them. And you can add if you want to. I told you about Sergeant Kienle [16:30]. I mentioned him earlier -- the one that made the wonderful maps. And I talked about Lieutenant Kluge [16:35] who was assigned to us as an officer. He was a nice young gentleman. His German wasn't as good as ours, but he was -- he spoke some German, and was a nice person to work for. We had a wonderful man named Mr. Tucker [16:52] who was a civilian employee who taught us how to write. And he was a wonderful tutor. He was fussy [17:00] all get go. And he made sure that we learned how to write a report with the main items, how to make an outline. And by the time I got to college I didn't have to take any basic English courses.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: Because I was already -- I was promoted immediately to other courses like Classic Literature because I had learned how to write. And all of us were taught by Mr. Tucker

[17:24]. And he was a man that I will always remember.

INT: And he was at 1142 [17:28].

PF: He was 1142 [17:30] and he was our tutor. We got private tutoring for us young -- some of the older fellows maybe they didn't need it. They had gone to college. But we hadn't. And for us it was very, very wonderful training.

INT: And did he have an intimate knowledge of captured documents or was he there more to work with you than he was --

PF: He was a -- he was teaching us how to put this book together. He made sure that, if something had to be a subparagraph in parenthesis, a small I, that we didn't give it a Roman numeral, for instance, you see [18:00]?

INT: [affirmative]

PF: He made sure that the way all of us have learned in college how to write a report that we learned how to write a report. And it's been -- I mean for somebody about to go to college, I mean, that kind of training it's something so valuable that I can never overestimate it.

INT: Do you -- do you think there's a chance that the reason that this tutor could have been there may have also been because many of you were not native English speakers?

PF: No.

INT: No?

PF: I think if they were all Americans he wanted to be sure that this book was a real book, and they hired a good -- a good professor to teach us. And then there was Harold Solmssen [18:35], who was -- who was 10 years older than I, who just passed away six months ago. And he was a very intelligent, capable man, very religious, very fussy, he

laughed at us youngsters for being so silly. And he was very, very serious and intelligent, and very much to the point. Then there was Herman Gieschen [18:58]. He was a son of a Lutheran minister [19:00] in Wisconsin. And he -- after the war he worked for -- he worked for Harley Davidson for the rest of his life, not enjoying it very much, but he was very religious man who made sure that we youngsters were kept in line. Then there was Roy Flynn [19:19] who was a brilliant young man who became a professor of English literature at University of Santa Barbara [19:26]. Brilliant, somewhat sarcastic, sharp, excellent. Then there was -- there was -- there was Walter Behrens [19:34]. Behrens [19:35] was a -- he was married. Those who were married had a really different outlook on things than we. I mean their wives were permanently living in Alexandria. And Walter Behrens [19:45] was -- he ultimately got to be an analyst for -- in the stock market. And, you know, a typical stock analyst.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And worked in that capacity for many years. He was [20:00] also German Jewish and very much -- and somewhat older than me. And he kept our nose to the grindstone. These are -- these were sort of the substance of the people we had. They were older and they were serious, and they really -- they really cared about what they were doing. And then there was Stern [20:21] who was -- who ultimately got to be -- I believe Stalback [phonetic] I think his name was. He got to be a jeweler in Switzerland and died there, got a very capable person. There was a fellow named Jacobs [20:35] who came later on who was younger than we were. I don't know if you have him on the list.

INT: Ernest Jacob [20:40]?

PF: Yeah. And he was younger than we, and he came later on, and he -- I don't remember

much about him. There was a Sergeant Newton [Alfred] [20:47]. He was our sergeant, and he was the worst possible person to have been appointed our sergeant, because we didn't respect him very much, and he didn't know how to lead men. And we always [21:00] made fun of him. And one day, when we didn't think he'd showered enough we all forced him into a shower and gave him a shower. And I remember that with some sadistic pleasure.

INT: Was a he a German speaker?

PF: Newton [21:13] was -- yeah. They all were German speaking. But I don't know they -- that he was a native.

INT: Not a native of Germany.

PF: And then there was -- I don't know. I'm just mentioning the ones that you -- quickly come to mind.

INT: Well, you're hitting quite a few, so this is great.

PF: Yeah. Well, I don't know. You can mention some others if there are others. But -- so, I do know -- I do know -- and it -- the reason I remember them is because we were very close. We worked very closely together. And we -- and we knew each other. We liked each other.

INT: There are -- on one document that we found there are three officers listed as being at 1142 [21:56]. Kluge [21:57] is one of them. Bettilyon [22:00].

PF: Bettilyon. Yeah.

INT: Bettilyon [22:02].

PF: Yeah. He was a very nice man. We got -- we got along pretty well with our officers because they were -- got along well with us. It was a mutual relation, mutually

satisfactory relation. If they knew that they couldn't pull too much rank on us because they couldn't force us to be intelligent. They couldn't force us to come up with intelligence. That has to come naturally. So, they knew that they better treat us the way we wanted to be treated, and they did on the whole. We had very little of the kind of -- the kind of nuisance regulations that typical soldiers have to put up with.

INT: [affirmative] There's another officer here, a Lieutenant Washburn [22:45]. Albert Washburn [22:47].

PF: I remember the name very vaguely.

INT: And he may not have been there the whole time.

PF: Yeah. But very favorably.

INT: Okay.

PF: I remember -- these are officers -- I remember them all very favorably. The only [23:00] officers that I remember unfavorably was that General -- at GMDS [23:04] later, which was Colonel Blunda [23:06], B-L-U-N-D-A. His name was perfect for his job. He was really not a very nice man. He fraternized with German officers, and we German Jews, non-commissioned officers, didn't think that was appropriate.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And so, we didn't like him at all. He offered me a job after the war and I turned him down because I knew that he wouldn't respect me the way I expected to be.

INT: So, when you were at 1142 [23:34] did -- who did you immediately report to? Did you report to a sergeant? Or did you report to Kluge [23:41], or did you just not report to anybody?

PF: The officers were over us. None of them used their authority. Kluge [23:55], when he

came, was the -- was the man in charge. And, of course, we did whatever he said, but he [24:00] didn't -- there wasn't much -- we knew what we were supposed to do. And the reason we were successful is because we believed in what we were doing. I don't want to overstate it, particularly since I don't think Dieter Kober [24:15], my good friend, was as serious about it as I was sometimes. I'm very fond of him. Anyway, so I'm not trying to disparage him at all, but I don't think he took it quite as seriously as I. But, as far as I was concerned, this -- and maybe I've been that way all my life. This was my assignment. I wanted to do a good job. Nobody had to tell me what to do. I was waiting for the next bag to come so I get some more information. You see, it was -- when you've done research it can be very exciting. And that's the way we felt.

INT: So, let's talk about these bags a little bit. About how often would a bag of documents come along? Was it regular or irregular?

PF: It was regularly. We were just [25:00] being victorious in North Africa. And these bags were sent to us.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And the bags contained pay books, German military newspapers, orders -- printed orders from German officials, anything that they captured that seemed of interest they put in bags and gave to us. And we got in there and took it out and distributed to -- I mean I knew, for instance, that Sergeant [Stefan] Rundt [25:34] was S.S. So, I gave him that stuff. They all knew that I was concentrating on units. So, they gave me my stuff. Somebody else -- I think Solmssen [25:42] was in charge of collecting data on officers so that he would -- we wanted to know who was Lieutenant Colonel Schmidt [25:50]. Yes, he ultimately knew that Lieutenant Colonel Schmidt [25:53] was in the 52nd Battalion of

so and so, so and so Division.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: So, when we got somebody from the 52nd Battalion [26:00] -- if we asked them, "Who was your officer," and he wouldn't tell us, we say, "Well, it was Lieutenant Schmidt [26:05]. Lieutenant Colonel Schmidt [26:06]. We know that. Now, come on tell us the rest of it." So, we had all that information.

INT: [affirmative] And so, these documents -- were they coming directly from the front to you guys, or were they stopping -- because there was London branch as well and a little bit later on I'd like to talk about the London branch. Did they go there first, or were they coming straight to 1142 [26:28]?

PF: We wouldn't know that.

INT: Okay.

PF: Here they are.

INT: [affirmative] They just showed up.

PF: They just showed up.

INT: And was it daily or weekly or --

PF: Enough to keep us busy. I don't think it was daily, but certainly weekly.

INT: But it's safe -- is it safe to say that you guys over the course of the war would have seen tens of thousands of documents?

PF: Documents, yes. Bags, not.

INT: Okay.

PF: Documents, absolutely. Oh, yes [27:00]. My own file -- my own file. I mean, if you can -- if you can consider one file cabinet, which is about three-foot long that has three by

five cards, full of cards. And I had two or three of them. That's why when I told you that somebody once took the thing and threw it all in the air it just devastated me. Yeah. So, we -- yes. Absolutely.

INT: Did these documents change as the war progressed? You said initially they were coming from North Africa. Could you see a shift in where the documents came from as the war progressed?

PF: No, because remember we invaded in 1944, I mean after the -- after the -- after North Africa and Sicily, we basically invaded in 1944. I don't remember whether they came from Sicily or not. Certainly, from North Africa, I remember clearly. And Sicily, probably. We were stuck at Anzio [27:59] for a long time [28:00], so I don't think we got very much from Italy. I still am resentful of General Mark Clark [28:05] for not going across Italy before the German general, whatever his name was, created the German line that made it so difficult for us to get past Monte Cassino [28:22]. But we could have had it if he'd been a little more courageous. But he was a typical WASP general who didn't -- who wasn't qualified to be general, but because he had blue blood, American blood, he -- we made -- so, I never forgive General Mark Clark [28:35], although maybe it wasn't his fault. But that -- you may remember by the history how we got stuck at Anzio Beach [28:40] and we stood there for months instead of doing what we should have done. So, anyway, to answer your question, I don't remember if we got anything beyond that --

INT: What about from after the D-Day [28:54] landings? Were you getting documents from -- I mean, I would certainly imagine that in France [29:00], just tons of documents --

PF: Well, you have to remember. In August we were sent to England.

INT: Okay.

PF: So, we were there for a month or six weeks or something like that. So, there, obviously, we must have gotten the documents there. When we came back -- when we came back I just remember my return very, very vaguely, between that and when we were sent to German Military Documents Section [29:21], which would have been in May 1945, probably. I think we were wrapping things up. I just don't -- I mean that's my guess. I don't think, at that time, we needed that many more documents. We were ready to publish this book. And there comes a time when you have to see, "Now we got to publish the book." And, besides, I did a -- I spent six months almost writing the detailed report on the indoctrination of Nazi political officers into the -- into the German armed forces, that the [30:00] [speaks German], National Socialist Propaganda Officers, who were put into each unit in order to keep track after the July effort to kill Hitler in '44. They were put in there to make sure that the army stayed loyal to Hitler.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: So, I spent a lot of time doing the research for that. So, I remember working on that. And that took me several months, anyway. So, you see, by this time it's Christmas in '44 and I just, I don't know.

INT: [affirmative] And, again, did MIRS [30:42] -- I mean the name implies it, but did you get virtually all of your information from captured documents? Or did you also work with intelligence coming out of the interrogations that were at -- going on at 1142 [30:57]?

PF: I think -- I think we knew [31:00] what was going on. They were on our camp. We talked about it. We didn't have much contact with the others, didn't know too many except at the mess hall, and I don't think we used that information at all. I -- my memory

is that it was all from documents.

INT: [affirmative] Did -- when you were at 1142 [31:19], did you ever see any German prisoners?

PF: I don't remember. I know that I saw German prisoners at GMDS [31:31] afterwards.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: But I can't answer that.

INT: Okay.

PF: I don't remember.

INT: But you obviously -- you knew that -- did you know that there were interrogations going on?

PF: Oh, yeah. We knew everything was going on.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: You got to remember, we ate with our fellow soldiers in the mess hall.

INT: Right. [affirmative]

PF: But I don't know whether we ever saw German prisoners.

INT: Do you remember seeing the compounds or fences or anything like that, or were there certain areas that were off limits or --

PF: Oh, no. Nothing was off [32:00] limits. But we knew where things were. We weren't kept from it. We just didn't. We had our own work to do, you see.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: We had -- we had our job to do. We did that and we concentrated on that. The barracks we slept was here and the barracks we worked was there, and that was -- weekends we went to Alexandria or to the USO [32:19] in Washington, D.C. [32:20], and on Mondays

we were back to work.

INT: [affirmative] So, was it largely a Monday through Friday sort of operation?

PF: Yes.

INT: Okay. So, you actually did have off on most weekends?

PF: Oh, yes.

INT: Okay.

PF: I remember -- I remember picking my various USOs [32:38]. I remember the USO
[32:40] -- the basic --

[End of Tape 2A]

[Beginning of Tape 2B]

INT: The distinctions between the different USOs.

PF: Yeah. In Washington D.C. [00:08] it was wonderful. I was a jitterbug. I was a dancer. The regular USO [00:12], the official USO [00:13] had the most beautiful girls that you could dance with them and you go dancing a lot. The Jewish USO [00:18] had the best food. The Catholic USO [00:21] had the best dancers, the best dance music. And the Lutheran USO [00:25] had the most comfortable beds to sleep in. So, you would go from one to the other depending upon what you wanted to do. It was pretty -- it was pretty good duty.

INT: Did you ever go to the USO [00:37] in Alexandria [00:39] as well?

PF: No I don't think so.

INT: Okay. So, just -- you went up to Washington [00:45] then. How would you get to -- would you -- could you take a bus, or hitchhike, or taxi? How would you get into town?

PF: Well, certainly hitchhiking was no problem ever, ever. I mean, it's funny in today's

world where no one would pick up a hitchhiker. In those days [01:00], everybody picked up hitchhikers. So, we either got a ride with somebody from the camp or we hitchhiked. It certainly wasn't any problem getting there or back. If you had a uniform they'd pick you up.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: It's lovely, those memories.

INT: [affirmative] Did you receive frequent passes to go on leave or anything? Was your family still in New York at the time?

PF: My family was in New York and I visited -- we were given a lot of freedom that way. We were really treated very well. I think they recognized that to utilize us to our best advantage they should give us perhaps more freedom than the typical soldier would have.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And so, I would say yes. I can't tell you how often, but I can tell you that -- yes. Well, of course, I told you about my first leave of absence at Camp Ritchie [01:54], right? Got home after three or four weeks because I knew how to operate a telephone switchboard, but that was different [02:00].

INT: So, the entire time you were at 1142 [02:06] you lived on the post.

PF: Yes.

INT: You never lived off post. Okay. But you mentioned -- do you remember, your officers for example, like Kluge [02:14]. Do you know if he lived on post as well? Because we've heard stories of a fair amount of folks, including the officers, who may have had the opportunity to live off post somewhere, especially, if they had spouses.

PF: I don't know. I think Walter Behrens [02:28], who was married. I think his wife was in

Alexandria [02:33]. And it's possible that -- he was a sergeant, like myself. It's possible that he might have been allowed to live off campus.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: As far as the officers, I don't know the answer.

INT: Okay. Let's see. You said, again, you were aware that there were interrogations going on there, but did -- you never had [03:00] any in depth conversations with anybody about German prisoners or anything that was going on there.

PF: It wasn't a problem. The whole -- we talked about a lot of things at lunch.

INT: Sure.

PF: And we ate with a lot of people.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And they might have told us. I mean I knew exactly what they were doing. I knew that they were taking one of our German -- fluent German-speaking soldiers and dressed them in German army uniforms and threw him in there. And then we heard that there were microphones, and that they would take down the information. I knew all that.

INT: You knew all that.

PF: We knew all that.

INT: Okay.

PF: Because we talked about it at lunchtime. But -- or dinnertime. But that's the extent to which...

INT: Did you ever go in to where they -- they had these buildings where they were listening in on soldiers. Did you ever go into any of those?

PF: It's interesting that you ask me that because I can't answer that truthfully. It's very

possible that I may have seen one of the setups, but I don't -- I couldn't swear to it
[04:00]. It's possible.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: We had the free run of the camp. It was a very nice place to be assigned to, and it was --
yeah.

INT: We've had -- in fact, one of the veterans we interviewed a few days ago refers to it as a
country club, because he was a combat officer who had been overseas in North Africa
and Italy and everywhere for several years, and then at the end of the war he was
stationed at 1142 [04:28]. And he refers to it as a country club. Any experiences that
would support that?

PF: Well, I think that's exaggerating. We didn't play golf there, which is what you do in a
country club. We didn't have a swimming pool. We had wonderful volleyball matches,
and I was pretty tall and I was pretty good in volleyball. And we -- in those days we
volleyball like it's supposed to be played. You know, you pass to each other. You don't
just knock it over.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And I think my two front teeth were knocked out when I got -- tried to get -- and I even
got a document saying it was service connected. But when -- 10 years later I tried to get
my teeth replaced [05:00] by the United States Army, they refused it because I couldn't
prove that -- I told them it happened while I was in the Army, and I told them I thought it
happened at a volleyball game. But, because I wouldn't prove it, they wouldn't approve
my replacement. But I had to do it privately. But we played a lot of volleyball.

INT: [affirmative] So, there are actually -- from talking to other veterans and looking at some

maps, we actually think there was a swimming pool at 1142 [05:31] that some folks remember using to relax and whatnot.

PF: I don't remember. If there was one, fine. I don't remember.

INT: Do you remember anything about the post commander, if there was a -- the Colonel in charge of the whole place, or did they pretty well leave you alone?

PF: They left us alone.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: It was a minimum. I don't even remember how often we had to line up for something or other. I'm sure it happened a few times. We did it -- always making fun of it.

INT: Was there [06:00] a flag to salute and raise?

PF: Oh, yeah. Probably.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: Oh, yeah. I don't want to -- I don't want to sound as if we weren't soldiers, but --

INT: Sure.

PF: But not much.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: Nothing that I remember distastefully.

INT: [affirmative] Do you remember if the -- if the camp was well guarded in terms of the security of the camp?

PF: Yeah. I don't remember that it was that well-guarded.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: I don't remember.

INT: MPs or anything? You weren't carrying side arms or --

PF: Oh, no.

INT: Yeah.

PF: I wouldn't have known how to use it.

INT: But, just in terms of the security, you don't remember if there were barbed wire fences or guard towers?

PF: I don't think so. I don't think -- I don't remember barbed wire. There probably was a guard at a kiosk at the beginning of the entrance, but I don't remember anything like that.

INT: [affirmative] Was it -- was the facility [07:00] -- could it be seen from the road, or was it fairly --

PF: No. I don't think so. I don't think so. As I remember there was a drive to it. But I don't think so. It's a long time ago.

INT: Yeah. Absolutely. But this has been going -- and, again, I apologize. This is when we start to ask some of the really nitpicky questions.

PF: That's okay. I'm happy to answer them and tell you that I don't remember.

INT: And that's perfectly -- and I really appreciate you being honest. I mean, if you -- if you don't remember, say you don't remember. That's fantastic. That's great. Let's see. Do you know of any other programs that were going on there at 1142 [07:41], besides yours and the prisoner interrogation one?

PF: No.

INT: Okay. What about the old gun batteries? Do you remember that there were the old, big concrete batteries, or -- there weren't any guns in them, in the bunkers?

PF: We knew -- we knew it was an old Civil War Fort.

INT: Okay.

PF: We knew all that.

INT: Okay.

PF: We knew [08:00] that.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: But we didn't care.

INT: [affirmative] While you were there doing your work with MIRS [08:08], were you ever paid visits by muckety-mucks from Pentagon [08:13] or VIPs or folks like that?

PF: From the Pentagon [08:16] I think we were. I think that's where Sergeant Kienle [08:20] was particularly effective.

INT: Oh, with his graphics.

PF: With his beautiful graphics and things. Exactly. I can't overstate that because he did such a wonderful job. You have to imagine the guy that's capable of really showing this how much we captured, this is how we did, and it was just wonderful.

INT: So, just making bar graphs and charts and things like that?

PF: Histograms. Yeah. Exactly. See, I think once in a while. However, remember. Many times we had to go to the Pentagon [08:51] to give reports.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: That was equally important. Our liaison with the Pentagon [08:55] was perhaps closer than I mentioned before, throughout the period that we were there [09:00].

INT: [affirmative]

PF: Our Sergeant Kleinman [09:02] was always stationed in the Pentagon [09:04], as you know.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And many of us had to go there once in a while.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: Don't ask me what I did there -- probably gave a report on what I was doing.

INT: Would you go to the Pentagon [09:17] frequently from 1142 [09:20]?

PF: If someone told me. Well, not on my own, except for --

INT: Except on D-Day [09:24].

PF: Yeah. No. Not on my own unless we had something to do there.

INT: Do you know what sort of things would you do at the -- when you had to go to the Pentagon [09:33] would that just -- to be a courier or something?

PF: No. Not as a courier. No. I don't think as a -- well, sometimes. Let me not understate that. Sometimes if somebody told me to bring something to the Pentagon [09:44] I would go, and I'd bring something. Sure. But I don't think that was our main mission. I think we probably worked with some counterparts there in some way. Maybe we shared information or told them what we were doing [10:00] or -- I don't remember much more than that.

INT: [affirmative] Vince, anything to add right now?

INT: What was the collective discussion?

INT: We were talking a little bit about specifics about 1142 [10:16], security, and --

INT: Fence?

INT: Yeah. And he didn't really remember --

PF: Well, there might have been some fences where the prisoners were. And I might have seen those, but there wasn't a fence around the whole place that I remember. It was kept very informal.

INT: And so, let's see. So, was there ever a period other than those first few months -- or, well, I shouldn't even say months. Those first days when you got to MIRS [10:48], were you ever stationed permanently at the Pentagon [10:51]?

PF: No.

INT: Okay. Dieter Kober [10:56] mentioned that there was a period while -- that -- where he was chosen [11:00] to -- he lived at 1142 [11:02], but his office was actually in the Pentagon [11:04] for a fairly lengthy period of time.

PF: Possible. No. I don't think --

INT: I wasn't sure if that was typical or not.

PF: Well, he was for a consultant, but there may be special interests. I don't know. Maybe he was working with his counterpart who then wanted him -- most of the people there were either civilians as you see from the photographs that I showed you, or -- incidentally, I don't know if I've shown you the -- the real photograph of Lieutenant Kluge [11:26] that I'm going to send him.

INT: Yeah you did. There's the one -- it was -- it was a series of officers there.

PF: Yeah. And he was on the right hand, left hand side.

INT: Yes. Exactly.

PF: Yeah. And that's -- so, there were many officers, our counterparts. Maybe they were consulting. So, it's easy that somebody may have said, "Dieter [11:43], you -- come here and work with me on SS."

INT: Let's talk a little bit about the shift where you and Dieter [11:52], and a few other folks were transferred to London for a while. Do you remember how that came about and why that came [12:00] about?

PF: It was very sudden. I mean, D-Day [12:03] had come and gone, and we were, of course, very interested in it, fascinated by it. And suddenly we get a call, "You're going to Europe." Very little advanced notice. And I remember we -- going to the airport -- they didn't have the John Foster Dulles Airport [12:22] at the time.

INT: [affirmative] Sure.

PF: And we were going to the airport, and there was a twin-engine plane, and it was in the evening. And we had our duffel bag. And I remember that -- with some satisfaction, that there wasn't room for everybody so they kicked the Colonel off in order to let me on. And it gave me a lot of satisfaction, because apparently it was important to the Army to get us over there.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: So, they put us in -- they assigned us to the war office, and they gave us a room at the Strand Hotel [12:56]. Dieter Kober [12:56] and I shared a room. And that was the time when the V-1 [13:00] -- well, the V-2 rockets were really the pilotless planes. The V-1 was the one that came later I think. I'm getting the two very often mixed up, but I have a feeling that the V-2 were the pilotless drones that didn't do a lot of damage -- scared some people, but we used to go and watch them. We used to go out on the roof of the hotel and watch them. We're glad they didn't drop, and we could see them going over and then dropping somewhere with an explosion. They didn't really do a lot of damage, the V-2s because they were -- they were single bombs essentially flying somewhere. And one bomb is -- doesn't do that much damage compared to real bombing. You know? And so, we were there during the entire V-2 bombardment, and it didn't seem to faze us very much. We stayed at the Strand Hotel [13:48], but we reported to the war office, and

we were there for a few weeks and did whatever we had to do. But I don't recall any details. Maybe Dieter [13:56] probably knows more than I do. But then, suddenly, we were called back. It was a surprise [14:00] to us, because we were busy. And we figured that -- hopefully correctly, that the officers who had depended on our work for their own careers in the military suddenly realized that, without us gnomes they couldn't -- they couldn't function. And so, they sent us back and called us back rather suddenly.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And that's --

INT: So, all told, you were in England for less than two months?

PF: Yes. I think so.

INT: Okay. Dieter [14:32] had mentioned that that was where he was assigned his specific task of studying the Hitler youth. That was his project while he was there. Do you remember if you had a certain project that was different from what you were doing at 1142 [14:44]?

PF: I always had the assignment of identifying German units.

INT: German units.

PF: That was -- the first chapter is my chapter.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: I was supposed to do that. And all I can remember is that's what I always did.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: But it was -- you know [15:00], they had a lot of German units, and I mean, if you get to these [speaks German] -- means "to [unintelligible] for special purpose." Those are the ones that were killing all the Jews in Ukraine and Lithuania. And we had to identify

them being -- ultimately I know that that information was used in the war crimes trial later on in Germany, because these were terrible people. And so some of those things were really serious stuff. So, I don't ever remember doing anything else except my assignment on the report for political indoctrination of the German army after '44. That report was, of course, separate.

INT: And when did you do that report?

PF: After 1944.

INT: Okay.

PF: I think there's a date on my report.

INT: Okay.

PF: But I -- that was -- that was a separate research study to which I devoted a lot of time, if I remember correctly. It was done in [16:00] -- 4th of June 1944.

INT: So, that sounds like that probably would have been just before --

PF: Just before --

INT: -- you went over to the -- to London then.

PF: Yeah. And before the assassination attempt.

INT: Oh, true.

PF: But that was -- political indoctrination and morale building in the German army. And that was a lot of -- that took a lot of -- oh, no. I'm sorry. No. I read the wrong date. The date of this is December 21st, 1944. That's the date that this came out. I guess the date - - I don't know what the date above means, the 4th of June, but the basic date is December 21st, 1944. And that makes more sense, because the whole point of this study was that the German -- after the Hitler assassination attempt, that the Nazis became fearful that

they no longer could trust the army. And that's [17:00] -- and that's what this study was all about.

INT: [affirmative] When you were working on the military units, what type of information were you trying to gather for each unit? Did you have a list of info, basic information for each unit?

PF: My job was to find out as much as possible about each unit and describe it in such a way that some officer who would come across these units in Germany would know what they are. For instance, "a festungs-brigade [17:35] is a fortress brigade. Independent starting infantry brigade numbers 939, 963, 964 and 1017 have been identified." That's all I can say about that. On the other hand -- let me pick a different item for instance in my chapter. I'll read you about the [18:00] station hospital battalion. "Staff controlling a group of hospitals, a hospital subordinate to such a staff is shown with an Arabic numeral before the number of the staff. And R after a number indicates that the hospital was previously an auxiliary station hospital battalion." And then I give the German name. "These have been abolished." It's just a -- anything that I could find about unit is what I would put in there. And that was -- that was -- in some cases we went into great, great detail. I won't read it all, but for instance, the local security units, organization and employment -- these were [unintelligible]. That is the older people that were defending their plot of land who would later on be put in the line, in the defense of Berlin [18:46].

INT: [affirmative]

PF: Well, there's a whole page in which I describe how these [speaks German] units were organized. So -- and the numbers of them, also. All of this was to give the -- our officers [19:00] a lot of information when they came across these people.

INT: And so, it sounds like what you just described was how these units were organized and what different numerical systems meant. Did you -- were you one of the ones who looked into specific unit by unit -- for example, found out that the 303rd Panzer Grenadiers was commanded by so and so and was armored with these weapons and had been trained at such and such location. Would you do that? Or was somebody else doing it? Because that's my understanding of a lot of the Red Book [19:36], is unit by unit -- almost an encyclopedia of German military units.

PF: Well, I'll read you a paragraph of a typical division, and then you'll see.

INT: Great.

PF: "This type of infantry division consists of three infantry regiments of two battalions each, an artillery regiment, a [unintelligible]," which is an infantryman [20:00], "battalion, an anti-tank battalion, an engineer battalion, a signal battalion, and services. Its table of organization thing [phonetic] is approximately 12,000 officers and men. The majority of German infantry divisions are of this type. There are indications that this type is being supervised by the infantry division 45, which is believed to have about 10 percent weaker components and total strength of about 11,000." Now, that's a fairly detailed description of -- now, I don't know whether I listed the weapons that they had, but I certainly listed as much about -- my job was to describe the unit and what kind of unit. Okay, now the weapons would be important, but I don't see in what I'm looking at now -- how many men they had? Yes. And how they were created? Yes. But -- the weapons -- I think my wife is here. Yeah. So, equipment, bazookas and other infantry had tank [21:00] weapons. So --

INT: [affirmative]

PF: To some extent, but not in the detail that you're talking about. Now, who led them is an entirely different section in the book, as you may have seen. Somebody else was assigned to that.

INT: Okay.

PF: And they had complete details, infantry, commander, home station, what regiments they are, when it was formed, where it was -- all of that is under -- is a different chapter than mine.

INT: Okay. So, again, your chapter was the organization of the German military system, how it was organized.

PF: And a description of the specific units.

INT: Okay.

PF: The organization to begin with, Oberkommando der Wehrmacht [21:38]. That's the German armed forces. And then Oberkommando des Heeres [21:42] -- the Army and how they were -- the table of organizations. That was my job. I learned how to draw -- how to make table of organizations. And it's helped me in my work as the director of auxiliary services at the University [21:56], because at least I was clear that I want to know who was in [22:00] charge and who did I report, and who reported to me, and who was staff, and who was a direct line person. This was something that the average person doesn't always fully understood. But, in my work at a university, if you know anything about campus politics, it helps an awful lot to know where the bodies are buried and who reports to whom. And so, if you're familiar with tables of organization, it helps an awful lot in your career later. And it certainly helped me, because I had to -- I had to draw up tiers that you have some samples of.

INT: [affirmative] And so --

FEMALE SPEAKER: Excuse me a moment. How much was the check from

[unintelligible]?

PF: \$533 and something.

FS: \$533.

INT: And so, you spent your month or so in the London branch in the office. When you went to London, were you working at all or were there other people there who had -- who had been in the London branch for quite some time? Did you interact [23:00] with them?

PF: Not Americans that I remember, but lots of British.

INT: British. Lots of British there.

PF: Oh, yeah. Again, my memory is very, very vague on that.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: I remember I enjoyed being there. I was in the war office that wasn't very far from the Strand Hotel [23:17].

INT: [affirmative]

PF: I went back to the Strand Hotel [23:19] a few years ago.

INT: Oh, really?

PF: My wife and I visited. I said "This is my old station."

INT: So, again, could you repeat -- why was it that you feel that you were recalled back to the United States? Was it because things weren't going as well without you?

PF: Well, there's a certain prejudice that non-commissioned officers have towards their officers.

INT: Sure.

PF: And we felt, surely, that we were recalled in such a hurry that they must have felt that they really couldn't continue their work without us. We were doing some basic grunt work. We were doing intelligence work that they needed [24:00] in their Military Intelligence Services [24:03]. And I just felt that they needed us. I -- obviously I can't prove it.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: That's the way we felt. We got some satisfaction out of it.

INT: When you went there, did you take your card files and things like that with you?

PF: No. Those card files were used in order to do my writing.

INT: Okay.

PF: I mean when I described to you the hospital battalion, it's because I probably had, in this case, three or four cards on the hospital battalion. When I described to you the other units just now I must have had 20 cards that enabled me to write a whole page on what it was doing. But, no. They stayed there.

INT: So, when you -- let's see [25:00]. You were at 1142 [25:04], then -- one of the last things that you did at 1142 [25:07] it looks like, by judging by the dates, was the -- that O.B. book was actually -- the Red Book [25:12] was actually published, it looks like, in March of '45. Do you remember what you worked on between then and when the section picked up and was transferred back to Ritchie [25:23] as GMDS [25:24]?

PF: I don't even remember the date I was transferred back to Ritchie [25:29]. It seemed to be almost a natural continuation, because the war was over in May, with Germany, in '45. And so, it seemed to be a smooth transition. You're going back to Germany, you're going to work on the documents that you have, and you're going to organize them.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And so, that was a very smooth transition as I remember. There didn't seem to be any important dates involved in it [26:00]. March '45 and May 8th, 1945, if I remember correctly.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: That's just a few weeks later.

INT: Sure. Do you remember, as the Red Book [26:12] was being ready to be published, going up to New York for a week or so to assist with the proofreading of the book?

PF: No.

INT: Okay. Because there's actually -- one of the orders that you have, actually -- and you have the order and Dieter [26:30] remembered the incident, but didn't remember the order. So, putting them together was great, where it looks like a handful -- maybe eight, 10 of you --

PF: Got sent to New York?

INT: -- were sent to New York to work with, apparently, the publisher of that book to proofread it before it finally went out.

PF: I don't remember that.

INT: Okay. Well, your documents tell the story, and that's extraordinarily helpful for us.

PF: Good.

INT: So -- and so, do you -- were you [27:00] at 1142 [27:01] when you heard about V-E Day [27:03]?

PF: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Absolutely. We went to Hagerstown [27:08] then and celebrated. I remember that. Oh, yeah. There was -- sure. Oh, wait a minute. Hold it. Hold it. Hold

it. Just wait -- just -- no.

INT: Hagerstown [27:19] was V-J Day [27:21], right?

PF: I'm sorry. I was in --

INT: That's quit all right.

PF: Hagerstown [27:23] V-J Day [27:24]. Oh, I'm afraid my memory is faulty. Hagerstown [27:29] was V-J Day [27:30] and I was at GMDS [27:31] in Camp Ritchie [27:32]. V-E Day [27:34] I don't remember.

INT: Okay. Just so you know, we've got about five minutes left or so. And so, did the end of the war -- I don't want to put words in your mouth, but I'm assuming it didn't come as much of a surprise that the war was coming to an end.

PF: No. We were -- we were very, very knowledgeable at MIRS [27:59] about the [28:00] German situation and the progress. In fact, some of us, I think, probably knew more about the conduct of the war than a lot of other people in the Army. I mean I knew all about Remagen [28:18], the bridge. We knew about our contact in -- our capturing Aachen [28:24] right away. We knew about the disaster of our paratroopers in Nijmegen [28:30] in Holland, where the Germans had been tipped off and killed so many of our troops. We knew about the failure of the -- of the gliders that didn't turn out to be very successful.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: We knew an awful lot whether we did it from our documents or because we were so close to the Pentagon [28:51] -- but we really knew what was going on. In fact, even today I find myself knowing more about the conduct of the war in Europe than a lot of [29:00] people I talk to who were in the Army who didn't know a lot of the details. Because

that's what happens when you're in military intelligence.

INT: [affirmative] I'd like to -- we're almost out. I'd like to save -- I'd like to talk a little bit about GMDS [29:17] at Ritchie [29:18], but I think we'll save that for the next tape.

PF: Okay.

INT: Because we're just a minute or so away. Vince, do you have any closing questions for this segment?

INT: Let's see. Just an example. Would you have personnel come in, maybe officers, saying, "Okay, I need German organization information," and they would look for you to answer questions? If they showed you photographs or uniforms would they ask you to identify?

PF: That's very possible. I think that's a real possibility. Each of us had a specialty. And, if somebody wanted to know something about S.S. they would go to Rundt [29:59]. I know that because he [30:00] was the specialist. And so, I think it's possible that -- well, they would have gone to Lieutenant Kluge [30:08] and he would say, "Well, here's Sergeant Fairbrook [30:10]. He will help you with that." That's -- I can't say for sure but I think that's probably could have happened. But it might have even happened that we were -- they wouldn't come to us. We'd have to go to the Pentagon [30:23] to give them that information. Remember, they were officers, and we were out in the sticks somewhere. So, they would make us go to the Pentagon [30:32].

INT: But, for example, say someone, an officer, came in -- or was at the Pentagon [30:37] and wanted information -- "Can you tell us what portion of the German army were involved with their German prisoner of war camps, the Stalags?" Would you know that sort of thing --

PF: No, I wouldn't -- no, because that would have been beyond my knowledge. I wouldn't

be able to tell you what -- if there was an army unit involved of taking care of the Stalags, but I would probably be able to describe the unit and how many men [31:00] there are, what weapons they had, where they've been, where they were going to go. I might know about that, but I wouldn't know any strategic information such as you're asking me for. That went beyond my ken. I would know -- my job was to describe German units and the organization of it, but not what percentage of this or that.

INT: Including identifiers on their uniform?

PF: Yeah. Well, you remember there was one example about the [speaks German], where in my fake interrogation I said -- oh, yes. We had to know what an unteroffizier [31:37] wore and what an officer -- we had to know that, but I don't know that I described that in my chapter. But I think there's some basic information that all of us shared. So, any of us would know what an unteroffizier [31:50] was, what an -- what a -- what a [speaks German]. We knew all of that.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: All of us knew that to be -- to be honest with you, but [32:00] not because of our specific research subject, just because -- well, remember. We talked about nothing else.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: For two years. We were deeply involved with studying the German army.

INT: That's a good place to stop it right now, because we're out of this tape.

PF: Okay.

[End of Tape 2B]

[Beginning of Tape 3A]

INT: Today is February 15th, 2008. This is a continuation, a third in a series of interviews

with Mr. Paul Fairbrook [00:14] at his home in Stockton, California [00:16]. This is part of the Fort Hunt Oral History Project with the National Park Service. This is Brandon Bies and Vincent Santucci of the National Park Service. And, with that, we were just going through some of Mr. Fairbrook's [00:29] collection of captured German documents. And he was being so kind as to give us some of these items and to translate - - roughly translate a few of them as well.

PF: Well, this is a document that may or may not have been captured, but it is obviously a joke on an autobiography. And it has a lot of funny sentences that made no [01:00] sense at all. And I'll be glad to translate it for you so you can see how silly it is. This is called, "My Order -- My Life." "When I was born there was nobody at home. My mother was in the field and was getting potatoes. This parcel -- this land -- this land didn't belong to us, but we got the potatoes from it anyway. We were three of us, triplings, and all of our names was Max. Only Eric didn't -- wasn't named Max because his name was Hans. On the total we were nine siblings. It was -- it was father's crowning achievement, and mother's" -- this is hard to pronounce -- "crowning glory as someone following the dictates of the government. My father became 15. He wanted the silver sports medal and my mother [02:00] was a born" -- eisbahn is a "railroad." This is a play on words, you know. "At first I didn't want to believe it, but it was written on all the -- all the towels," which means that they stole the towels from the -- from the railroads with the imprint on them. "Then I came to school, but I couldn't manage well with my teacher because I was always allowed to stay longer than the rest. But, therefore, I also got there always late. But once I asked the guy next to me, 'Tell me something out of the biblical story -- out of the Bible.' And he said, 'Judas went and committed suicide with a rope.' Then he said

to me, 'Tell me [03:00] also something from the Bible.' And I said, 'Go and do the same thing.'" In other words, they're quoting Jesus and trying to be funny. "Then I came into apprenticeship. I wanted to become a cobbler, but I couldn't because" -- again, this is a play on words -- "because I came in with a -- with a broken hip." But a cobbler also uses an instrument that has the same word as a broken hip. So, they're playing on words here, do you understand? [speaks German] is the word. "Then I became a photographer, but I couldn't develop properly." Again, here's a play on words. Develop and developing.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: "Then somebody came to me and said I should enlarge my family. And I said that should only do the person who first started it. And then I became a butcher, but when I saw what came into the sausages I said to my boss, 'If that ever comes out what you put in there then [04:00] you're going to go to jail and never come out of it.' And then he sent me out, told me to go to the devil. And then I became an actor. Then I was very successful. The people cried and wanted their money back after the performance. And once their -- once the cash didn't come out even and then now I will go all over the world and look like a captured Pole." So, this is a document that obviously was written I guess by a German just for it to be funny.

INT: Yeah.

PF: And we happened to capture that one.

INT: Now, from your recollection, something like that. Would you -- do you see any intelligence value in something like that?

PF: No.

INT: So, that may explain why you ended up with it.

PF: Yeah --

INT: It was deemed to be of no intelligence value.

PF: No value. That's correct.

INT: Okay.

PF: No value at all.

INT: Maybe it was a coded message [05:00].

PF: I don't think so. I don't think so. Listen, there were a lot of light things going on that didn't. I don't know if you're interested in the fact that I wrote -- well, these are letters where I applied to officers' candidate school, where I told you I didn't -- I flunked the test because they asked me if a gun was loaded and I didn't know and -- I was thinking of shooting it up at the ceiling to see if it would shoot. But, instead, I was honest, and I said, "No." And so, I flunked the test, which was a wonderful thing. But I wrote to Senator Bilbo [05:39] at the time -- the 27th of July 1945 because he was such a terrible man who was -- who called a lady dia dego [phonetic] officially in the Senate, and I protested as a staff sergeant. I wrote him a letter telling him that I objected to that [06:00]. Then I wrote to Drew Pearson [06:02] if you remember, and I had my father write a letter saying, "My boy who's stationed in G-2's Camp Ritchie [06:10], and who has 37 months of service tells me that the other day his commanding officer had a pretty hot session with his men. It seems that he called in his men, of whom more than 50 percent have over three years service, and 80 percent are eligible for discharge, to tell that none would be released until they finished their work." And then my father says this isn't fair, and "could it be that some of the G-2 Colonels are afraid to have to exchange their chickens for cap and bottles too soon? Very truly yours, Alvin James Fairbrook." I had him write

this letter February '46 so that I would get out of the Army. And then I wrote a letter to General Eisenhower [06:49] and I -- that's only of interest because I got an answer from him. And I have his signature here, in which I complain the fact that there was a verdict of [07:00] Colonel Naquilion [07:03] [phonetic] who was formally in command of the [unintelligible] concentration camp in England. And he got punished for a \$500 fine for mistreating American soldiers in his camp. And I said -- I wrote that I can't believe that American Army justice is so perverted that it sentences one general to death -- enemy general to death for atrocities committed on American allied soldiers, while an American officer, simply by virtue of being American, gets fined \$500 and a reprimand. And I wrote that when I was a civilian of course, and I got a very nice answer from --

INT: It's on the back.

PF: -- from -- huh?

INT: It's on the back of that.

INT: Yeah. I got a nice answer which said, "Dear Mr. Fairbrook [07:49], blah, blah, blah -- the only information I have is that press dispatchers says that record on this trial has not yet been received by the War Department. Any comment on the adequacy of this sentence must be reserved [08:00] until such time as an announcement of it is made. You'll understand, of course, that it's beyond the power of the War Department to increase any sentence judged by court martial. Sincerely, Eisenhower [08:14], War Department, Chief of Staff, Washington [08:16], 7th September, 1946. I was released in May, so I was at -- I thought this was pretty interesting. I sent this to the -- to the library - - the Eisenhower library and they were very grateful to me, and they sent me a letter thanking me for sending that information to them. You see, I was always kind of a

trouble maker, if you want to put it that way. But, anyway, I don't know if that's of interest to you, but -- now, here's a letter that you -- a certificate that I -- "Has completed a special course in order of battle intelligence."

INT: Oh, okay.

PF: During the period "19th of July to 18th of August." So, you may want to make a copy of that one.

INT: If -- we should make a copy of --

PF: Correct?

INT: Yes.

PF: Because you don't have that [09:00]. You don't need my --

INT: Was it at Ritchie [09:02]?

PF: This was Camp Ritchie [09:06], Maryland. Yeah.

INT: And the year --

PF: Charles Banfield [phonetic].

INT: The year was 1942?

PF: 18 August --

INT: '42 to '43. '43.

PF: 18th of August. That answers your question.

INT: So -- yeah.

PF: Tells you exactly.

INT: That would be very helpful to make a copy --

PF: 19th of July to 18th of August.

INT: So, it was a one-month course, it sounds like.

PF: Yes. So, you have that information. And I don't know -- you want extra copies of this, or you --

INT: And which one is that?

PF: Well --

INT: Oh, we have -- we do have the copies of that. Yeah. No, we got that already.

PF: Now, okay. That's all. I just wanted to be sure that you had all that. The reclassification -- notice of classification that I was -- that I was called for duty, and so forth. That's about it. Okay.

INT: Okay. Fantastic.

PF: What else did you want to --

INT: Well, yeah. We can talk a little bit more and then when we finish up we should just remember to make a couple more photo copies of those.

PF: Did you want anything further about my ultimate autobiography or what [10:00]?

INT: Well, we do, yeah. We want to pick things up more -- a little more chronologically towards the end of your military service. The one thing we really haven't talked much about yet is specific to GMDS [10:15] at Camp Ritchie [10:16]. So, it might be good to get into that for a little bit and then maybe wrap up with some more specific questions and whatnot.

INT: There were a couple of questions still regarding 1142 [10:28].

INT: Okay.

INT: Yeah. You had referenced, when we first started talking, about the map room. Can you describe that? Why is it called map room?

PF: First of all, I don't know if it was called map room. I called it that today.

INT: Okay.

PF: Yeah. I remember when we came in that Sergeant Kienle [10:46] had a room to the right near where the officers had their offices. And there he would put up his easels and these large, white cardboards on which he would present [11:00] -- make his presentations. It's not a map room in the sense that you're asking me, Vince.

INT: Okay.

PF: It's a room where he prepared his audio-visual material to take to the Pentagon [11:10]. That's really what I meant by that.

INT: Okay. Let's see. Oh, the other question is you had talked about files. You had maintained files.

PF: File cards.

INT: When you talk about files, is that separate from the cards? You had cards, but you talked about keeping files on prostitutes in Europe. Did you have other kinds of files?

INT: More serious files.

INT: Yes.

PF: Well, I remember working with three by five cards. That was my stock and trade. Whenever I came across an item of information, such as the example I gave you about the [12:00] office -- that small office in the German army, Second Command, which gave out medals -- whenever I came anything across where somebody got a medal and the stamp for that office, I would put that into that particular category. I had one saying "Pa-352." And that was personnel ordinance [phonetic] for [unintelligible], you see? So, that's how we -- that's how I kept my information.

INT: Okay. That's very interesting then. I don't know if you could recall how you had an

overall organization. Did you have a hierarchy? And then, when you coded it -- you just gave us example, "Pa." Did you have a system that was uniform throughout the military, or was it something that you generated?

PF: Well, no. Remember that I showed you among the documents just a minute ago, that we had some basic tables of organization [13:00] that gave us complete organizational material where we knew, which we captured -- where we knew how the German army was organized. And that certainly would've helped me in setting up my filing cabinets. So, so the answer is, in setting up my files, I was helped by the fact that we had captured these documents and we knew, for instance -- when you capture a document such as -- such as this one here. The table of organization of the army, and here's a -- here's the Fuhrer [13:42] and here -- way at the bottom here is the -- an office -- this is Department of the Army on the west, or general quartermaster, or [speaks German]. You see, that would be very easy [14:00]. [speaks German] means a special staff. [speaks German] -- what does this special staff do? I had to know. So, I would have something that says, "[speaks German]," and if I found something that tells me what they do I would put it right behind there. So, I did have, in terms of the overall table of organization, at least at headquarters, a pretty good idea. Now, when it came to regimental or battalions, my guess is that I had it -- see my job was not -- in my chapter we didn't go by regiment and division. That was the next chapter that I didn't do. I would be interested in, under the title "regiment" -- what is in a typical regiment? You see, what is in a special regiment? What's in a -- how is the Panzer S.S. regiment different from the Panzer regiment of the regular army? Do they have more weapons? Do they have better -- that's the kind of thing that I would be interested in [15:00].

INT: Okay. So, basically, your organization, your files, may be a mirror image of the organization of the German army?

PF: At the top levels.

INT: At the top levels.

PF: At the bottom part I would have had to create it myself because I wouldn't -- how would I know what a [speaks German] number three is? I mean, it happened to be on this document, but there are lots of other units that I had to identify, which I got only from pay books or newspapers.

INT: Did you look at other branches of the military for Germany, like the navy or the Luftwaffe [15:35], or anything like that?

PF: I don't think. That's a very good question. And my answer is I don't think we did that. I don't know what we did with it, but I don't remember getting involved in it -- certainly not in the book that I had. So, that's a very good question. And I don't know the answer to it.

INT: Okay.

INT: This has been very helpful [16:00]. Do you have any inkling of what may have happened to, not only the captured documents that you were using, but what -- the information that you were producing, the reports and whatnot? Would you know if these were saved, if these were catalogued somewhere? In other words, is there any chance that we could find these in the National Archives somewhere, or were they destroyed?

PF: GMDS [16:30] was German Military Document Section [16:34]. That organization was created for us at Camp Ritchie [16:40] so that everything would be organized like a library so that it would be available ultimately. Now, I hope that you or somebody knows

what happened to the GMDS [16:50] documents and whether they in fact reached the office that you just mentioned. I assume that our reports [17:00], since they were dealing with military documents, would have also found their way to Camp Ritchie [17:05], but I'm not sure. But it seems to me that GMDS [17:08] should be a primary source. Have you -- let me ask you. Have you found out whether those documents, in some ways, are existent, either separately or mixed up with other documents elsewhere?

INT: We haven't, most likely simply because we haven't looked for it yet. And, again, that goes back to we haven't known a thing about MIRS [17:33], GMDS [17:34], any of that until fairly recently.

PF: But GMDS [17:38] was certainly -- if those documents are still kept together, or are moved -- we organized them pretty well, as you can see from the photographs that you've seen.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And, if they're available, they're more -- there's more information there than you can possibly handle in your lifetime because they were all put together. They all wound up there, and [18:00] we spent a lot of months -- I spent from -- a whole year there.

INT: So, if we search for these at National Archives, say, would we look for files that would include your notes plus captured documents, plus photographs? Would all of those sorts of things go into your files, or would they only be your notes?

PF: No. It's the -- I'm going to say the other way around. German military documents means you would definitely get all the German military documents. I can't guarantee, but I'm assuming that the work that we did also might have been catalogued there in some way, but I can't tell you that for sure. They might have been catalogued and then --

in G-2, in the Pentagon [18:44] and never found their way to GMDS [18:46]. It's called German Military Documents [18:48]. So, the answer -- the first part, yes. All the German documents that we had should have found their way to Camp Ritchie [18:56]. And if you look on the GMDS [18:59] somehow [19:00], if you find them, you'll find a lot of material. Probably, if they kept it, they're fairly well organized.

INT: So, it's safe to say that, from your experience, no documents or reports were intentionally destroyed?

PF: Not to my knowledge.

INT: Okay. Because some of the other programs that were at 1142 [19:20] we have accounts and, in a few cases, we even have photographs of documents. The war ended -- they destroyed a lot of the records. So, in your case, you don't recall anything like that.

PF: I don't recall. But, remember. 1945 we -- May 8th is the end of the European war, and 1st of June or somewhere around that time I go to Camp Ritchie [19:41].

INT: [affirmative]

PF: So, remember. We were fairly low level. And, no matter what I say or what you may think, we were just under -- we were non-commission officers that did what we were told.

INT: [affirmative]

INT: And the last question I had is, in your mind, do you recall how many [20:00] men worked in the MIRS [20:04] program at a particular given moment in time?

PF: My guess is 20. That's a guess. But it's not far off because we weren't that many. We were all housed in this one big building. How many do you have in MIRS [20:20]?

INT: Twenty enlisted men and three officers.

PF: That's probably really close.

INT: At one -- and this is a snapshot, and this is on April 30th, 1945, on one snapshot in time.

PF: That sounds very -- that sounds pretty close.

INT: And Kleinman [20:40] was the one who was always stationed at the Pentagon [20:43].

PF: Yeah. He lived with us --

INT: No. Was Kleinman [20:46] at the -- Kleinman [20:47] was at the Pentagon [20:47]?

PF: Yeah. He was a sergeant.

INT: Okay. Gotcha. I'm sorry.

PF: He was a pompous ass, but not a bad fellow. But I was looking for the right description earlier and he was somewhat pompous.

INT: But he worked at the Pentagon [20:59], but he lived [21:00] at 1142 [21:01]?

PF: Yeah. He was at MIRS [21:02] assigned to the Pentagon [21:03].

INT: But he lived at 1142 [21:05]?

PF: Oh, yes. He was with us all the time.

INT: Okay.

PF: And he was pretty good, actually. He knew his stuff. But he was a little pompous. But that's okay. I have a right to describe my friends any way I want to. Newton [21:20] was sort of an incapable master sergeant. It was unfortunate that he was -- but we made fun of him. You see, we didn't care. I mean he was a mess -- not like the difficult master sergeant in the Marines. We didn't care about him. We -- what's the word? We allowed him to be there.

INT: A few other questions about 1142 [21:52]. What -- one thing that strikes me a little bit is I'd asked earlier if there was much interaction [22:00] on a level of intelligence with the

interrogation folks. And you said you knew what was going on but you guys really never asked them questions or traded information.

PF: No. I don't think so because our job was to do research on the documents that we got. That was our specific assignment. And there was enough to keep us busy with what we had.

INT: Oh, sure. I guess just what surprises me, if I can kind of bring in my own modern opinion is -- let's say that -- so, who was it that was studying the S.S.?

PF: Rundt [22:38].

INT: Rundt. Let's say Rundt [22:39] is working on the organization of the S.S., we know for a fact that there were S.S. prisoners who were being interrogated. It seems like it would make sense that, to supplement his information, somebody from MIRS [22:53] would say, "Hey. Ask this guy these questions." But you're not aware of anything -- and that may have taken place [23:00] at a higher level. Kluge [23:02] might be aware of something like that. But, at your level, it was documents only.

PF: I know nothing about it. You're right.

INT: Okay.

INT: That's interesting. Okay. So, let's go back to the scenario when you get these bags -- captured documents.

PF: Yes.

INT: Would there be several people that would be triaging these, deciding who that document would most appropriately go to? How would you sort them?

PF: My memory would be that we all -- we all -- we all knew what everybody was doing. So, my guess would be -- and it's strictly a guess -- that, if a big bag of documents came in

we all got some of them, we went through, and I'd say, "This is for you, Dieter [23:47]. This is for you, Rundt [23:48]. This is for you, Gieschen [23:49]." We knew what everybody was doing. And I think that's what we would do. I wanted to show you one more thing, and I was hoping --

INT: Do you know what everybody did -- do you know what their assignments were [24:00]?

PF: Yes.

INT: Fortunately, that -- this report --

INT: Gives --

INT: -- has by operational period -- it breaks it down into operational periods, the exact tasks that each individual --

INT: Okay.

INT: In fact -- and Mr. Fairbrook [24:14], I don't know if this sounds familiar. There were -- there was a numerical system of desks, like desk W-1, W-2, W-3. And it lists who was assigned, who was assisting, and what their tasks were.

PF: Yeah. I'm looking now to see whether, in the captured newspapers that I gave you, there was something specific that I would have been able to use for my work. I would read all of them, you see. And sometimes -- and I can't say it from this -- sometimes there would be a mention of a high-ranking officer -- not lieutenant, but a high-ranking officer.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And [25:00], because one of us kept track of all the high-ranking officers, as you see in the -- there's a chapter in the book dealing with all the high-ranking officers.

PF: So, if I found that, and I found out that this ranking officer was in charge of blah, blah, blah -- this was important to me, as well as to the person taking care of the personnel

thing. Like I think -- I think Harold Solmssen [25:20] did that.

INT: Okay.

PF: So, that -- there's an example. I can't find one as quickly as I would like to, but I'm sure that the newspapers were a big help to me, and to others in identifying certain people, or certain things, or certain units.

INT: Another question is -- and we touched upon this a little bit. There were a number of British. You mentioned a sergeant and an officer as well.

PF: Mowatt [25:52]. Lieutenant Mowatt [25:53].

INT: Who --

PF: Mowatt [25:55] was a -- maybe they're all lieutenants. You know I'm not -- I'm just wondering if Mowatt [26:00] -- but you have a picture of him. You have a photograph of him somewhere. And Mowatt [26:05] may have been a lieutenant.

INT: We can look. This is -- and this document we'll be leaving with you.

PF: I think they were all -- I think they were all officers. Now that I think of it --

INT: Mowatt [26:14] was listed as a lieutenant.

PF: Yeah. Okay. They were all officers. And Smith [26:18] was too, or was he a captain? Horton Smith [26:22]?

INT: Horton Smith [26:24] -- captain.

PF: Yeah. There you are. So, I do remember it correctly.

INT: So, it says, "Served as general advisor on all research matters and conducted liaison with London branch."

PF: Yeah. He was very good. He was very good. And Mowatt [26:35] also was good. His German was good -- very nice man. I kept in touch with him for many years afterwards.

I visited him in London, actually. And then I sort of -- we came apart. But --

INT: So, did the British have an equivalent -- different name for an equivalent program?

PF: I don't know.

INT: Yeah. And that's the one thing we've tried to --

PF: It's a good question. I don't know the answer. Except, when I went to war office [27:00], as far as I remember, I continued doing what I was supposed to do. So, I don't know whether they did or not. I'm not sure. I'm sure they did the same kind of work, but maybe not organized in exactly the way we did it.

INT: So, you were aware -- obviously, there -- you went. You worked in the London branch office.

PF: Yeah.

INT: Which struck you as -- it was -- that was still MIRS [27:23]. It was just the London office of MIRS [27:25].

PF: Yes. That's right.

INT: And there were Americans there, but you remember there being a sizeable number of British there --

PF: Of course. It was the war office. In fact, the other way around -- mostly British and just a few of us.

INT: There were mostly British there.

PF: Yeah.

INT: Okay. I mean, would you say -- is it safe to say that MIRS [27:40] was a joint American/British operation?

PF: In America.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: In America. I just mentioned the fact that I don't know they had MIRS [27:51] in England. It was a -- it was a -- no. I would put it differently. It was an American operation to which some British officers [28:00] were seconded in order to maintain liaison with their equivalent intelligence organization, the name of which I do not know.

INT: Okay. And these British liaisons, like Smith [28:17] and Mowatt [28:18], they handled all of this liaison. You would -- you would never send something to London or to the British.

PF: No.

INT: Okay.

PF: We were -- we had this thing we had to do, and we focused on that.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: It was good. It would challenge us to do what you're supposed to do [phonetic].

INT: Absolutely.

INT: Just taking a stab at it. Is there anything that stands out that you came across in one of those bags that's -- was very memorable that still sticks in your mind?

PF: Let me tell you that, as a German Jew [29:00], a sergeant in the army after I'd been a sergeant three years, my study of the National Socialist Guidance officers was, to me, a real eye opener. If you read my paper, the fact how the Nazis decided to integrate their Nazis officers into the army -- it reminds me a little bit of what we're facing today where -- forgive my political orientation -- where the Bush administration is hiring its Republican young sycophants, and it gives them job that they're not at all competent for. If you read the book that what happened in Iraq, the book about the young incompetent

people that were assigned to Iraq because they happened to be good Republicans and because they're loyal to Bush. It's -- I'm reminded of that kind of a thing in a way [30:00], even if there's no direct comparison, because it's the cynical, almost pathologically afraid approach to things that caused the National Socialist Guidance officers in Germany -- that caused these young incompetent sycophants being assigned to FEMA [30:20] and to other -- and to -- particularly under [Paul] Bremer [30:25] [unintelligible] in Iraq. You've read as much about it as I have. That was a disgrace to this country to put people that were -- I think the fellow that was put in charge of the stock market had never -- had never been -- had been an ice cream vendor or something like that. I mean those are things that are shocking.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: To me. And, to answer your question, to me that was quite a discovery. As I got into this particular study, the degree to which the German army, the professionals, was invaded by these [31:00] Nazis. I remember that clearly, and I think I was rather shocked by that. Interested, but shocked.

INT: [affirmative]

INT: We have about two minutes.

INT: What I'd like to do is -- I mean, first Vince, do you have anything else relating to 1142 [31:21]?

INT: No.

INT: I want to cover a little bit more with GMDS [31:23], and then his later career. Right now might be a good time to me to pause this, you to go ahead and flip, and I'll get out the map of 1142 [31:33].

[End of Tape 3A]

[Beginning of Tape 3B]

PF: But you asked me what experience I had interrogation. I may not remember much about my training as -- in class four, but even in the early classes we were taught how to interrogate. In fact, I've given you an example of a typical interrogation that I wrote. And we might have threatened them if you don't cooperate. But the way we did it is with a cigarette in our mouth and them dying to have a cigarette, the way we talked about their country and their friends, and we -- about their unit that we knew a lot about. We got them to the point where they were quite willing to go beyond giving us their name, rank, and serial number. But we never that -- I'm 99 percent sure -- were never encouraged in any way to do anything that violated the Geneva Convention [00:55]. That was very important to us because it was mutually advantageous from our point of [01:00] view. And that's why I think that the present approach from the CIA [01:05] is so counterproductive that I wish the country would be even more upset than some of us are about it.

INT: Great. And the one thing -- just to let you know. We probably should have even mentioned this earlier so that you know what's interesting with our project. We have actually had modern intelligence folks from the CIA [01:27], the DIA [01:27], come to us to ask us what are you learning about how this was done 60 years ago? The DIA [01:35] is running what's called a "lessons learned" project, where they want to go back to what - the sort of thing that was being trained at Ritchie [01:44] to 1142 [01:45].

PF: Well, I think --

INT: And that's why it's unfortunate that Colonel [Steven] Kleinman [01:50] couldn't be here

today because he is very, very much a proponent of teaching the lessons of 1142 [01:58] to modern interrogators [02:00].

PF: And you have the sample -- the more I think about it the sample interrogation that I created was maybe part of my homework, or part of something I wanted to do. I don't think it was as facetious as it looked to me at first now that I translated most of it for you.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: It seemed to me a fairly straightforward kind of approach to interrogation. So, you really have a document -- you can get it translated even better than I did extemporaneously. But you know what's in it and you have a copy of it, right?

INT: Yes.

PF: So, I think that is worth translating.

INT: [affirmative] Great. If you don't mind looking at this document for -- at this map for us.

PF: I don't mind at all.

INT: And seeing if any of this rings any bell -- this is a map of 1142 [02:51]. And --

FEMALE SPEAKER: I'm going for a walk.

PF: Okay, honey.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Okay?

PF: Thank you.

INT: And [03:00] just to orient you --

PF: Where's the entrance?

INT: The entrance would have been over here. The river would have been over here. The parkway -- the entrance would have come in -- this was the parade ground. These were where the prisoners were kept, the interrogation --

PF: I have a feeling -- I have a feeling that these -- we were right here somewhere.

INT: Okay.

PF: And we weren't far -- the showers were diagonally across.

INT: Okay.

PF: I know that because that's where we took Sergeant Newton [03:25]. So, they would have been somewhere over here. So, we -- I think --

INT: And that's -- just so we -- that's the building T-1.

INT: [affirmative]

INT: Or, no. This is T-1.

INT: That's T-1. 101 -- some of these are marked up here as to what they are. Not all of them are. 101 is listed as officer's quarters. Now -- but, again we don't always take this for the gospel.

PF: What's 111 and 104?

INT: Well, I hate to disappoint, but 104 is the swimming pool.

PF: Okay.

INT: So -- but --

PF: So, there were two --

INT: -- 111 is listed as headquarters [04:00] officers.

PF: No. That's not -- ours were sort of -- what's 11?

INT: 11 -- it may not be on there. 11 doesn't look like it's on there. So, that's entirely possible.

PF: Well, we had -- we had -- as I remember it we had -- we were -- as we came in we were something here. And then I thought that our barracks were here, but they could've been

that way.

INT: And these are all barracks.

PF: Okay. Well, then --

INT: All these long buildings were barracks.

PF: I think T-11 was our barrack. I mean that's my guess.

INT: Okay.

PF: I can be completely wrong, but I think this was ours.

INT: And so, all these small squares -- those were mostly the latrines. And the showers --

PF: Oh, we had a latrine in our own -- we had a latrine in our barracks.

INT: Oh, you had one in the barracks?

PF: I remember when I did the oranges [phonetic].

INT: Oh, right.

PF: No. I think -- my best guess is that it's one of these here -- this one here. I came in and there it was.

INT: [affirmative] So, that's T-11 is what --

INT: What do you think T-35 is?

INT: That may [05:00] have been the PX. We can check.

PF: Ours would be straight --

INT: If you have a copy of the [unintelligible] resource study, there is a much more detailed map in there. In fact, I might even have it in a folder -- that actually has most of the numbers on it.

INT: Okay.

INT: If you pull out the fold out for 1945 for World War II [05:20].

PF: I'll tell you. We had a -- we had a -- if this was swimming pool we had the volleyball courts here somewhere.

INT: It -- we have photographs, and it looks like there are volleyball courts here close by.

PF: Well, I feel very strongly, without being through, that this was ours. T-111

INT: T-11 -- or just T-11.

PF: T-11. Yeah.

INT: Yeah. Vince, that should -- the T-11 should coordinate with that.

PF: Well, you can find out. I'd be interested if you find out that it's true, but that's where I think we were. And some of the prisons were over here somewhere. Over there.

INT: Yes. Exactly. Yeah. This and this we believe were the [06:00] main prisoner compounds.

PF: Yeah. That's right. They were in that general area.

INT: These are the old gun batteries, those big concrete --

PF: I see.

INT: -- gun batteries and whatnot. That would have been parade ground.

PF: Yes. That's right. I -- my guess is here. I'm glad you showed it to me because it seems to me that -- I don't know. What did Dieter [06:15] say?

INT: T-35 is mess hall.

INT: Okay.

PF: What's T-11?

INT: T-11.

PF: What did Dieter [06:21] say?

INT: Post headquarters.

INT: That's listed as --

PF: Then or now?

INT: Then. Yeah. That would be then.

PF: Are you sure?

INT: Dieter [06:33] thought it was more over here somewhere. Now, we know what these buildings were used for. We know it wasn't for MIRS [06:41]. He thought it was very close to the entrance.

PF: I do too. I thought we came in and were --

INT: And it could be -- it could be --

PF: What's 120? No. I'm sorry. I know --

INT: Well, that's fine. It's okay.

PF: I'll tell you. I know that -- I know we went across to get our showers [07:00]. I know that that's where we took Sergeant Newton [07:02]. Find out where the showers are. We were across. I remember that because we all dragged him in there and gave him a shower. He didn't want to.

INT: And this is your barracks building? You took him out of the barracks --

PF: No.

INT: -- or you took him out of the actual MIRS [07:15] office?

PF: I don't remember. But I do know that -- I do know that we had a long flat building.

INT: Okay.

PF: There wasn't anything funny about it. A long building. And this side was the officers -- Kienle [07:30] and here we were the rest. And, if that wasn't it, I don't know the answer. It could've been -- it could've been this.

INT: The -- probably -- these are more mechanical support sort of structures. Probably not there.

PF: Well, I --

INT: And the other option -- and this is -- this is god's honest truth. Your program doesn't show up on many of these rosters. They may not have marked the building on you. That is entirely -- so, don't necessarily think that it's 60 years of memory [08:00]. There's a chance that it's either not correctly listed, or I mean -- obviously if it was easily listed we wouldn't be asking you this question.

PF: I know. But we took a truck. And I just -- it seemed to me we went in and there was our office. But maybe we made a turn and I don't remember.

INT: Okay.

PF: Not being very helpful --

INT: Well, no. But that's quite all right.

PF: Long time, you know?

INT: Oh, absolutely.

PF: And the geography of the barracks was not exactly high on our list of interest.

INT: Understandable. Well, to finish up with some non-geography related questions, if we could cover a little bit about -- the war -- and I should say the war in Europe ended. And, shortly thereafter, you -- it sounds [09:00] like -- did MIRS [09:02] become GMDS [09:05]? Was it absorbed into that?

PF: Absorbed into it. We weren't the only ones there.

INT: Okay.

PF: It was a much larger operation than MIRS [09:12]. We were just sent there to help.

INT: Had GMDS [09:15] existed during the war?

PF: I don't know. I don't think so.

INT: Okay. So, it seems like this was a new operation.

PF: Yeah.

INT: Post-war?

PF: Yes.

INT: Okay.

PF: And I think they sent a lot of people there. There was Camp Ritchie [09:27], and they sent us to help them, which made a lot of sense.

INT: But it was a much larger operation than --

PF: Oh, yes. You'll see people in photographs there that I --

INT: Yeah. There's lots of names that we don't recognize. Yeah. And could you describe the function -- was this almost in terms of putting together a library of German documents?

PF: That's exactly right. It was cataloguing. It's what -- it's what the catalog librarians would do in a library, in a regular library.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: That's what it was. Organizing it -- we would have been very good at that stuff because we really knew German documents [10:00].

INT: Any examples of types of documents? Or it ran the gamut and it was absolutely everything?

PF: I don't remember.

INT: Okay.

PF: Anything about it, except I was there.

INT: When we spoke with Dieter [10:13], he seemed to remember a large number of documents pertaining to the Russians that were being looked at immediately at the end of the war, as in as soon as the war ended we immediately became concerned with the Russians. Again, don't want to put words into your mouth at all.

PF: I remember no details about my work at GMDS [10:36] except that I was annoyed about the American officers fraternizing with the German officers. That I remember clearly.

INT: So, there were Germans assisting?

PF: There were German prisoners not far from there. And our officers went over there. And I had a German illustrator illustrate my father's book.

INT: Right.

PF: So [11:00], obviously, we had some contact with them, but I couldn't tell you -- it's possible that they might have assisted us if we needed them, yes.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: But, again, I don't remember clearly, except that I got this one gentleman to help us.

INT: Do you recall if these were just -- were run of the mill prisoners that happened to be held there, or if they had been recruited for that specific task to help?

PF: First of all, I don't recall.

INT: Okay.

PF: But I don't think they were run of the mill prisoners. I don't think so. I think they were probably picked by somebody to be there.

INT: Okay. And this whole time, obviously, you lived at Camp Ritchie [11:39].

PF: Yes.

INT: You work. You'd been reassigned to Camp Ritchie [11:41]. It sounds from the letter

you mentioned from your father trying to get you out that you did this for quite a while at the end of the war.

PF: Oh, yeah. I got out -- I got -- I think in May 1946.

INT: So, you were doing this, then, for almost a year.

PF: Yes.

INT: 10 months -- a year or so.

PF: With my brother.

INT: [affirmative] So, your brother [12:00] joined you at Camp Ritchie [12:02], and --

PF: Yes.

INT: Okay.

PF: And we did that for a year. That was very pleasant.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: The war was over. We were just -- it was very pleasant.

INT: [affirmative] Was everyone from MIRS [12:18] at 1142 [12:20] sent to Ritchie [12:22], or was the unit kind of disbanded and people went different directions?

PF: My recollection is that several people got several assignments, which took them away from us. Like Solmssen [12:35] with his study of -- with his study of the effect of bombing.

INT: Okay.

PF: A strategic bombing study was a very important one. And, as you may or may not know, we discovered that strategic bombing was on the whole a failure. It didn't stop the German will to fight as we thought it would be. And firebombing Hamburg [12:55] or Dresden [12:55] or Nuremberg [12:56] didn't really do an awful lot to help us win the

war. And, in fact [13:00], I read Mr. [Albert] Speer's [13:02] autobiography in German and he says that, if we had spent another one or two big flights to Schweinfurt [13:09] to really kill the ball bearings instead of mostly disable them, we would have had a much better result than going and bombing Hamburg [13:17], for instance. And that's where we made a strategic -- a strategic bombing of civilian population centers -- it didn't work in Germany. It didn't work in Japan either. We burned half of Tokyo [13:29] and it still didn't do any good.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: So, it's -- as Mr. Speer [13:33] would be qualified to say, if we had built -- if we'd have concentrated on our strategic goals, you see, instead of points -- they were short of gasoline. And, if we'd have destroyed the -- where they made artificial gasoline, we would have been much, much better off than all this population bombing. So, Solmssen [13:55] was responsible in that way. And I hope you -- I hope maybe the daughters will [14:00] be able to help you. I may call him after our visit.

INT: That'd be outstanding. Yeah. And we probably won't have a chance until we return to the office and catch a breath, but --

PF: No. I know. But I think -- if by any chance either one of them still has that study it's -- it should be fascinating.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: Although I have a feeling that would be in the archive somewhere. It's too important. So, people like him --

INT: [affirmative]

PF: People like he would be -- would be assigned different stuff. Many of us went to GMDS

[14:28], but I don't know if all of us.

INT: Kluge [14:31]? Did he go to GMDS [14:33]?

PF: I lost track of it.

INT: Okay.

PF: I don't think so.

INT: Okay. Well, hopefully we can ask him shortly about it. But --

PF: You should prepare him by calling his son first and telling him too -- like I did.

INT: We actually did have a conversation with his son just in our last day in the office, just prior to leaving last week. We spoke with his son at [unintelligible]. His son's actually going to come down to Washington to meet with us.

PF: Good. Well, when you meet with him again tell him that [15:00] you -- that you were the one that made a copy of the MIRS [15:06] story that I'm sending to his father, so that he gives you credit.

INT: Okay.

PF: So, he can do that -- he can -- he made one call and I was able to talk to him.

INT: Yeah. Which is just outstanding. That really -- but we owe that to you. You're -- we've been trying for a year to get --

PF: Well, you saw my letter. I made it sound very personal. And my original email --

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And that did it. I reminded him of what we were. But I had sent it to his son by mistake.

INT: Right. Yes. Because we don't have an email address for Kluge [15:36] himself. Just --

PF: I know. So, that's when he called me right away.

INT: Right. Which is just outstanding.

PF: That's great.

INT: Yeah. Anything at all, either at 1142 [15:46] or after the war at GMDS [15:48] related to war crimes? Where you were looking for evidence of war crimes and documents?

PF: No. We studied the -- we studied the whole thing at Nuremberg [16:00]. We were interested in it like we were -- remember, we were German Jews. I mean, we were interested in everything that was happening.

INT: Sure.

PF: And so, we were -- we were, as I said once before -- we were well informed, intellectually curious, but we were not involved in terms of our work in anything like that.

INT: Vince, anything else related to GMDS [16:26] or -- okay.

INT: I mean when stationed at Ritchie [16:31] do you recall where in Ritchie [16:36], what sort of facility or was it --

PF: Oh, sure. You have pictures of the barracks that were built. And I told you they were just being built when Sergeant Oz [16:45] gave me that three-day pass that I didn't deserve because I told him I had never been -- had never had a leave in the Army.

INT: So, in your mind, can you still picture Ritchie [16:55]?

PF: Oh, yeah. Very clearly.

INT: Where the lake is?

PF: Well, we came from the lake and you went up [17:00] from the lake. And to the right there was a little telephone switchboard. And then you went further up and there were the barracks. And then, further up there was the latrine. And to the left were the classroom buildings. I have that very clearly in my mind. You show a plan of the Camp

Ritchie [17:15] I can tell you -- I mean I was there for four months and I had nothing else to do but be -- go to school.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: So, that's very clear.

INT: So, it was across the parade ground from the lake?

PF: Yes.

INT: Yeah. So, okay.

PF: Across the parade ground, and when you went up there, there was a path up towards the barracks on the right, the classrooms on the left, and the little telephone booth -- or telephone switchboard where I worked there for a while. And the -- and the -- and the auditorium where Warburg [17:46] -- where Warburg [17:48], Paul Warburg [17:48] worked, that was further south. That was much closer to the lake than the rest of it. It was a nice theater there. I don't know [18:00] why I remember that. But I'm now speaking with confidence.

INT: So, you eventually were discharged in May of '46.

PF: Yes.

INT: Could you describe briefly what you did after the war. I gather you went to school.

PF: I went to -- first I took a summer course at Laval University [18:23] because I wanted to improve my French. I must have retained some French from my earlier stay in Alsace Lorraine [18:29] as a 10-year old boy. And then I went to Brown University [18:32] because one of my colleagues, David James [18:35], was at MIRS [18:36] and he became a French literature professor. And I applied to Brown [18:42], and they turned me down because I wasn't good enough in math. But I called him up and said -- I called up the

admissions office and I said, when I got the letter in New York City at 8:00 in the morning, “Can I come to see you?” And he said, “When?” I said, “This afternoon.” He said, “Well, I don’t -- it’ll do you any good.” I said, “I’ll be there at 2:00 [19:00].” And I got on the next train, and on the train I sat next to a guy from Yale [19:04] who said, “This is what you have to do. When you talk to the admissions officer, you tell him that you just arrived in the United States, you’re fairly new, you’re a veteran, and you really always wanted to go to Brown because it’s the one school that personifies America. And they’ll let you in.” And I went in there, and I told him that, and I got admitted. And then I went to Brown University [19:25] and majored in comparative literature, graduated magna cum laude with honors in 1950. And I was a reserve officer, and I was told to be ready to go back to Korea. But, while I was waiting to be called up, I went to Michigan to graduate school. Then, when the Korean crises was over, I got a job at General Motors in contracts. And from there, because I wanted to go back into the hotel business, I went to Michigan State [19:57] and got my master’s degree in food distribution [20:00] at Michigan State [20:01] and became director of food service and housing at Northern Illinois University [20:05], the school that is unfortunately in the headlines today. And I spent five years there. And after that I became dean of the Culinary Institute of America [20:14], which is now the preeminent cooking school in the country, but at the time we were in New Haven and I -- my job was to create -- to make a school out of it. I was having chefs who were keeping the jobs in their pockets and giving them to their favorite students. And I stopped that immediately and put all the jobs into a book with glassine pages so that everybody could see them. And I tried to create a school out of that. I was there for three years and then opened my own consulting practice in New Haven [20:41].

And then from there it wasn't the right place for me to be. I went to Chicago and joined a company -- a management contractor and we ran -- I helped to run several of their -- Zenith and other large food service operations [21:00]. Then I reopened my consulting practice and did consulting in Canada and lecturing all over the -- Canada and to some extent the United States, and got a job, ultimately, in 1965 as director of food services, then promoted to director of executive services at the University of the Pacific [21:22], where I spent 20 years until 1985. And I retired then in order to continue my consulting practice. And, because I've written several books, my name became fairly well known in my specific industry.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: And I spent 20 years -- very productive years at which I was able to do a lot of consulting and lecturing both in the United States, and Australia, and Germany, and France, and England. And I have sort of slowed down now and I'm just taking courses in French literature at the University of the Pacific [21:56] and enjoying my retired life [22:00].

INT: Outstanding.

PF: That's sort of the summary of my -- of my life.

INT: Super. A couple last totally random questions that we forgot to ask earlier before we wrap up here. One of those is -- you worked for MIRS [22:19]. It stood for Military Intelligence Research Section [22:21]. The interrogation program at 1142 [22:24] -- that was known as MIS-Y [22:28] for Military Intelligence Service-Y [22:31]. We also found very recently a record for something called MIS [22:36], Military Intelligence Service [22:37] -WD. Any idea -- and thoughts what that could stand for? We don't know what WD --

PF: For War Department. My first guess is War Department.

INT: So, you're guessing as opposed to knowing? Because we're just guessing.

INT: Yeah. We're guessing as well.

PF: I'm guessing. I'm guessing.

INT: Because it's a good guess. It's a very good guess [23:00].

INT: There is one name associate with that on this roster. And of the off chance that it might ring a bell, it was a Sergeant Sam Aronson [23:12]. Does that ring a bell?

PF: It does not ring a bell.

INT: Okay.

INT: Brandon, I was wondering, is there another page to that, because A is the first letter in the alphabet. Is it cut off that maybe there's more names than that?

INT: I'm going to guess no because in here you can see the Y program goes to the bottom of the page.

INT: Yes. Okay.

INT: They don't -- in other words they could've had at least three, four, five [unintelligible].

PF: Remember that we were pretty much a cocoon organization.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: We were in our own cocoon. We did our thing. And, to that extent, we were somewhat isolated from the rest of the intelligence apparatus.

INT: And then, your answer to the following questions will probably be no [24:00]. But we have to ask them anyhow.

PF: Please feel free.

INT: Are you aware of any involvement by the OSS [24:09] at 1142 [24:10]?

PF: No. We -- as I said before, we were interested in a lot of things that were going on. We were interested in Bill Donovan [24:20]. We were interested in OSS [24:22]. We were interested in everything that was going on. We were interested in the Flying Tigers [24:26] and Lieutenant General [Claire] Chennault [24:29]. We were interested in all those things.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: But only from our intellectual curiosity, not involvement as you say.

INT: Okay. Finally, two other intelligence locations that are intimately tied to P.O. Box 1142 [24:48] that other folks we've spoken with have worked with very closely. Most of the folks in the interrogation programs. One of them is where we're going tomorrow. It's about a half hour from here [25:00] in Byron Hot Springs, known as Camp Tracy [25:04]. And it was known as P.O. Box 651 [25:08]. It was a whole another interrogation center on the West Coast, which was originally conceived for the interrogation of Japanese prisoners of war. As it panned out, they ended up interrogating both German and Japanese prisoners there. A lot of the folks who were stationed there also, at one time or another, were transferred and were stationed as interrogators at 1142 [25:35].

PF: Are there still some people here that you can talk to?

INT: Yes. In fact, on Sunday we'll be interviewing an interrogator who has worked at Tracy [25:42] and then worked at 1142 [25:44].

PF: Really? Well, that's very interesting. I know there was a prisoner's camp around here. I mean I knew that. There was also one at Sharpe Army Depot [25:54] or here at the Naval station that we did recently given -- I used to be port [26:00] director, the port commissioner on our port here.

INT: Really?

PF: Yeah. I got to be port commissioner, because they were accepting applications from anybody now. Vice president of academic affairs, he applied, and I decided that if he could apply I could apply as a food service director. So, I spent the weekends, since I know research, to study a master's thesis on the Port of Stockton. And when I was interviewed by the city council the next day, on that day I know more about the Port of Stockton than any of the people that were interrogating me. So, he wasn't picked, but I was picked and I became port commissioner. But research helps. But I knew that that's just a little aside. I knew that there was a -- that there was a prisoner of war camp here and several. And so, this doesn't surprise me I didn't know it was an interrogation --

INT: But at the time, while you were at 1142 [26:53] you didn't know any of this? Because there was definitely communication and folks going back and forth. But [27:00], again, would have been--

PF: I didn't know anything about California until U of P called me and offered me a job. And I never even heard of the University when they called me. I'd gotten tired of traveling as a consultant. I was doing a lot of -- I was a consultant for Expo 67 in Canada. And so, I was traveling to Montreal [27:20], I had four children, I was tired of traveling. And so, suddenly I had answered a blind ad a year before to become food service director again, and they'd kept my application. And suddenly I get a call. And here I am in California. Completely surprised. I've been very happy -- very fortunate for me.

INT: The last location to ask about is another one tied to the prisoner aspect of 1142 [27:45]. It was in Pennsylvania near -- kind of near the Carlisle area. It was known as Camp Pine

Grove Furnace [27:55]. It was another prisoner interrogation screening [28:00] center for prisoners before they got to 1142 [28:03].

PF: No. I never knew about it.

INT: Okay.

PT: Sorry.

INT: No. That's quite alright.

INT: Two quick questions. Do you think that there was an equivalent program for MIRS [28:15] for the Japanese or Pacific theater?

PF: I was hoping you were going to ask me if it was something like that in the German.

INT: Oh. Well, you can answer that too.

PF: I'm going to answer that. And I'm going to answer it by showing you a book that I just bought, but I have not yet read. And I'll show it to you right now.

INT: We'll put this on pause.

PF: Can you -- can you pause it?

INT: Yes.

INT: We're getting paused right now.

PF: Because I'd like to show --

[audio break]

INT: Okay. Yeah. And we were just talking about -- have you -- at the time, were you aware of an equivalent German program? You were just starting to read this book here, but you have -- have you finished it?

PF: No. I was not -- I was not aware of anything. We knew there was an Abwehr [28:56]. Abwehr [28:57] was the German word for military intelligence. We knew that. We

knew the Abwehr [29:00]. And we knew that General [Wilhelm] Canaris [29:03], Admiral Canaris [29:04] was the head of the Abwehr [29:06]. And I remember that. But beyond that we didn't know.

INT: Okay.

PF: There was some -- I'm sure there were some of my colleagues at MIRS [29:16] that knew a lot more than I did because each has a different area to study and I think that somebody like Rundt [29:24], the S.S. would've known a lot more than I would.

INT: And I believe the other question that we had was -- and you had mentioned a little bit. If you could just repeat. We asked about women stationed at -- you don't remember any at 1142 [29:41].

PF: It's not only that I don't remember. I can say for certain that there weren't any.

INT: [affirmative]

PF: There were WACs [29:49], who work -- they may have been at 1142 [29:53]. I'm assuming you're asking me about MIRS [29:55].

INT: If any --

PF: 1142 [29:58] I cannot answer honestly.

INT: Okay.

PF: There [30:00] may have been at 1142 [30:01], but not at MIRS [30:03].

INT: MIRS [30:03]. But at the Pentagon [30:04] there were.

PF: Oh, yeah. There were a lot of civilian employees and there were WACs [30:08] all over the place. In those days the WACs [30:12] were used in a -- in a -- in administrative capacity as secretary, administrative assistant or whatever, and they -- in fact, I danced -- or that's not true. I won a dancing, a jitterbug contest with a WAC [30:25] captain at

1142 [30:28]. There was a stage. There was a jitterbug, and I won the three-day pass. She and I jitterbugged together. And she was a captain. She was really old. Like she was 30, and I was 23. And I -- at one time I had a picture of us dancing on that stage. And we won the contest, and I got a three-day pass.

INT: You said you, at one time, had it. Do you still have it?

PF: If I have it, I'll send it to you. I told you I'd look for it. I don't think I have it anymore. But I did have it at one time [31:00]. We were dancing away, jitterbugging on top of the stage. And I got a three-day pass. So, yes. There were -- now, I know for sure that she was there.

INT: If we were to mention a name do you think you might remember the name of the captain?

PF: No. I don't think so.

INT: Give it a try.

INT: I'm going to mention it anyhow, just to run out the last of our tape.

PF: She was a female captain.

INT: [affirmative] We have -- we know there were at least two captains who were WAC [31:31] officers. One was a woman named Catherine Vernon [31:34]. There was also a First Lieutenant Emily Berkley [31:43] [phonetic].

PF: She was a captain but I don't give up her name.

INT: Those are the most likely --

PF: The fact that a temp sergeant could dance with a captain in a contest --

INT: And you won the jitterbug contest.

PF: We won. Of course. I was a good dancer [32:00].

INT: [laughs] That's very -- do you know -- you don't remember if she lived on post?

PF: No, come on. I don't remember.

INT: We're just checking.

PF: I know. I remember us dancing and doing a hell of a job, and I remember getting a three-day pass.

INT: So, who made the -- who were the judges?

PF: I don't remember. I -- they were good judges. I can tell you that.

INT: Where was the stage?

PF: Oh there was built right -- I think right near the -- near the volleyball court.

INT: A temporary stage.

INT: It was a temporary stage?

PF: Yeah. Oh, yes. Definitely. What are you looking at?

INT: You just have some birds out in your --

[end of transcript]

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