

Fort Hunt Oral History
P.O. Box 1142
Interview with Wayne Spivey by Brandon Bies
Marietta, Georgia
August 30 and 31, 2006

INTERVIEWER: Okay, today is Wednesday, August 30th, 2006. My name is Brandon Bies, a culture resource specialist with the George Washington Memorial Parkway, working on the Fort Hunt Oral History Project. And I am here at the home of Wayne Spivey in Marietta, Georgia [00:25]. And we're here to talk about his experiences at Fort Hunt [00:29]. So, with that, Wayne, if you wanted to just start off by telling a little bit about your own background, your family, starting off with when and where you were born and kind of your childhood.

WAYNE SPIVEY: Okay, I'm glad to do that. Well, I was born in Centerville, Georgia, [00:47] which is in Guenette County. I was the next to the last of seven children. And we were living out in the country there. And [01:00] according to my brothers and sisters, they enjoyed it very much, the country life. It was a hard life. My father was a -- he was a contractor in Atlanta [01:13] back in the early part of the century. And, at that time, they had a lot of depressions. They had a lot of declines. And I think that one of them got him because up until that time, I think he was doing rather well. But I think it's -- it forced him to decline considerably. And so he tried farming, share farming with my aunt and her husband, they were the Campbells, and they had a nice home there. This would have been where my grandmother lived. They took care of my grandmother and so as a result, we made many trips to Centerville [01:56] after we moved to Atlanta [01:58], but I don't want to get ahead of myself [02:00]. We moved from the country when I was just 2 years old.

INT: And if I could just get you to back up and just say when you were born, your date of birth

and everything.

WS: Oh, I was born in 1920 -- April 17, 1920 in a house that was close to Zoa Methodist church there in Centerville [02:23]. And my brothers -- my older sisters can tell you that my uncle Dan somebody owned that home [laughs] and that's where I was born. And it was a rather rustic place. It's not [unintelligible], but it -- I remember when we used to go to homecomings, we'd pass that place going to the church. "That's where you were born, Wayne."

[laughter]

They would tell me that. And --

INT: You were -- sorry, you were starting to say that when you were 2, you moved --

WS: Yeah, when we were two, we moved to Atlanta [03:00]. And we moved -- that town, we moved pretty close to what is now Caps [phonetic] town, but they didn't care for that very much. They used to tell me -- my daddy was the son of a railroad man. And he had a great love for railroads. In fact, his father was an engineer back during the Civil War [03:23].

INT: Wow.

WS: And according to legend -- so I can't prove it in a way, but according to daddy, that during the Civil War [03:34], toward the end of it there, when Sherman [03:36] was approaching, he took his agent out and blew it up so that Sherman [03:44] couldn't have any access to it. But then during -- according to daddy's recollection, their life was pretty rough there. He was born in 1870, during [04:00] the time of a -- what do you call it -- reconstruction period. When the south was recovering from the Civil War [04:12]. And he -- that's what made him an avid democrat because they -- the republicans took over

there --

INT: Sure.

WS: They were in charge and I think they made it hard on his daddy because he possibly voted wrong. And they had access to voting back then. But anyway, that's a -- that's the early part, but I always enjoyed going out there in the country for family reunions and such as that; it was an old kind of a place, and it was there that my grandmother died.

INT: Okay.

WS: And so mom knew this Centerville [04:55] pretty good. But a lot of my -- on my mother's side [05:00], she was a Hewatt, H-E-W-A-double T.

INT: Okay.

WS: And in Snellville [phonetic], there's a lot of Hewatts. And her dad was a Hewatt. My grandmother was a -- she was a Franklin until she married in to the Hewatts. But my grandfather died at a relatively young age after he had about four or five daughters. I think it was mama, [unintelligible], and then another one. I give up. I can't remember everything. She died due to a tragic fire accident there in the country. But that's my recollection of mother and her side of the family. My grandmother [06:00] -- when we visited this country, we were a raucous bunch of little boys.

[laughter]

And I don't think she -- she wanted peace and quiet. And when we came, it wasn't peaceful and it wasn't quiet. So we would have to go in and kiss her, and we would get out. Yeah, but we -- it was a great time in the country. And I always enjoyed going back. But, like I said, I -- we moved to Atlanta [06:27] in -- well, I was 2 years old. And so we moved -- we lived in a place called Dempa Place [phonetic] then, and behind it was

a big pasture where mom kept cows. She loved to milk cows. And then also included in my family was an aunt, the twin sister of my nanny, and her husband had died. So, naturally, daddy said, "You're coming with us [07:00]." And she helped raise us. She helped raise the boys, my aunt Georgia [phonetic]. And so we moved from there to Oakland Avenue [07:11] which is very close to the Oakland Cemetery where the early Atlanta [07:18] chiefs were buried and also many of the confederate dead up there at Oakland Cemetery. It's a very famous cemetery. And I wandered through there many times. Looking at the mausoleums of the families, it's a very interesting place to visit. But we moved to Oakland Avenue [07:45]. At 315 Oakland Avenue, we had access to a street car. We could get downtown in no time at all or we could get to Grant Park which was a -- just [08:00] a few blocks from where we lived. And that's where we boys spent the summer by and large because the swimming pool opened in the morning and you didn't have to pay in the morning. You had to pay in the afternoon.

[laughter]

So we'd spend our mornings there swimming. And then we -- I enjoyed the park a lot. We played baseball. We played football. I remember we played on the street in front of my house. And we had some great times, the boys I grew up with. They were a diverse group. It was a Syrian family lived on the corner of Woodland and Oakland Avenue [08:42] and I grew up with those boys. [unintelligible] and one thing, when war was declared -- he -- well, he graduated in the same high school I did. And he became an officer in the [09:00] navy. He was flying with the PBV [09:05]. He was a navigator.

INT: Sure.

WS: And we -- and I remember reading the story about how they had bombed a submarine

[09:14] --

INT: Wow.

WS: -- and he had been a part of it. But then later on, that plane took off and never came back.

INT: Wow.

WS: And his mother never got over it. She was always preening for Nick, but Nick was one of the leaders of our neighborhood boys. He was smart and we were competitors [laughs] in a lot of ways. But he was a very intelligent boy. And so I grew up in Atlanta [09:44], old Atlanta, and I loved it very much. I went to [unintelligible] school and later it became -- [unintelligible] school and I walked to and from school. It was there I really became [10:00] interested in athletics. I didn't know how -- any kind of athletics [unintelligible] some contests, you could win a bronze star, you could win a silver star, if you could do certain things, a number of chin-ups, and high jumps and things like that. I didn't do very well on chin-ups, but on the high jump, I did very well. I learned I could high jump.

[laughter]

And that was a great feeling, and it gave me a lot of confidence. Then I went over to junior high, Hopesmith High [phonetic] there. And it was a rowdy bunch of boys there. And it was great fun. We played football in recess and I -- that's where I started typing, in junior high school. And I really started enjoying school more when I got into high school than I did in grammar school [11:00]. Grammar school was very hard for me, but it was -- it was a good time. We'd go to town -- going into Old Atlanta [11:17] was a great experience. You all -- you messed up going down town all dressed up in the wrong kind of garb. You had to put on a coat and tie. But it was an exciting place to go. Man,

you hit five points and you hear the police whistles and the street cars clanging, and it was -- and it -- the trains ran close by there. And it was an interesting place to see. And one summer, these two Syrian boys said, "We're selling papers downtown [12:00]." Now, I didn't know whether I wanted to do that. I asked my dad. I said, "Dad, the papers, they say I could get a corner downtown and sell papers." He says, "Son, it is honest work. You go ahead and do it." So that summer -- it scared the daylights out of me, standing on the corner, selling papers, but I did and that money felt very good in my pocket [unintelligible] and it was a learning experience for me. But then later on, I went to high school and that's where I really -- I went to a commercial high school. There were three high schools in Atlanta [12:44]. There was a boy's high, tech high, a commercial high, and a girl's high. And the girl's high was strictly for girls and boy's high was strictly for boys, and so was tech, but commercial was coed [13:00]. In commercial, you had business courses. You learned accounting. You learned typing, we learned shorthand -- and such as that -- and this was during the time of the Depression [13:09]. I knew that if I graduated commercial, I could get a job. I would be qualified for some kind of job. So that's the reason I chose commercial high. And I did very well in commercial high. It was one of the happiest times of my life. At the same time I was going to school there, I carried a paper route in the afternoon and learned how to solicit -- starts, especially [phonetic] -- and, like I said, I won a couple of trips there. And so it was -- it was not -- it was a good time in my life, one of the happiest times of my life. The music [unintelligible] think about that particular age and in the '30s, you say --

INT: Oh, yeah. Absolutely.

WS: It was a great time [14:00]. And then --

INT: So when did you graduate from high school?

WS: I graduated in -- I really finished in '39, but we graduated in February. The graduation ceremony was in February before it.

INT: Really?

WS: I was mostly in the class of '40. Our class -- we graduated in the middle of the year because it worked out that way. And I got -- still got my high school album. And I can see those young faces of people that I associated with. But I graduated then and then after I got out, the idea of going to college was just [unintelligible]. I mean, [unintelligible]. I carried a paper route when I was going to high school. And that was the way I earned money then; of course, money was hard to come by, it was [15:00]. And so after I graduated, I had to search for a job again. And I found a job, one of the places -- he was a subcontractor for what we then knew as King Hardware which was, I think, a number of hardware stores. He was there on Peach Street and he was on [unintelligible] there, and it was my first job, and I had problems. Getting along with my boss, and the one who proceeded me, he had been a -- [unintelligible] was a good friend of mine. His name was Williamson [15:50]. And he would -- he had been an excellent secretary; I could not quite measure up to him, his skill [16:00] in that job, but I did very well. But doing that was -- around '39 and '40 and the nation began to arm, becoming aware of the danger that we were facing as they began to build up the Army [16:14] --

INT: Sure.

WS: -- and the Civil Service [16:16] began to hire people. And so I got a job from the Civil Service twice making -- making twice what I was making working hardware. And so that appealed to me very much. And that's where things really took off, and I was going to

church at downtown Atlanta [16:36], central Baptist church. A couple of my friends were there, and we had some great times together there. And it was there -- well, I don't want to get ahead of myself, but it was there on a Wednesday afternoon -- Wednesday after prayer meeting, I was standing around with a bunch of the fellers and the preacher's daughter [17:00] talked to us. [inaudible] She says, "We want you men at your best." Oh, yeah, you bet. And we hit it off right then and there. In fact, she invited me to her graduation, and I just thought she was being kind. And I didn't go, and I've kicked myself ever since because she was serious. She wanted to be there because she had a -- we were having a date with another couple that had graduated from commercial high, and I've always regretted that I didn't do that because that's when our romance started and it was on and off.. But she was [unintelligible] at that time forward, no doubt about it. She was fickle.

[laughter]

There were competitors along the way. But then [18:00], it's like I say, the country was changing. My brother, he had been drafted in the spring of '41.

INT: And which brother was this?

WS: This was my oldest brother, George [Spivey] [18:12].

INT: George, okay.

WS: He was stationed down at Camp Cleveland [18:17] [phonetic]. And I had draft -- I had been examined and everything. And my classification was A-1, and I knew it was just a matter of time before they'd come. And one day, I happened to see my friend George Jackson [18:35] who graduated and he -- I don't know when he graduated, but he was there, and he was dating a good girlfriend, a [unintelligible] at that time. And she

married this boy, George Jackson [18:54]. But I saw George Jackson downtown who was working on his fourth career [19:00] at headquarters [phonetic] and he was in uniform. I said, "George, how did you get in the Army [19:08]?" He said, "Well, being here already," he said, "they approached me." And they said, "If you go ahead and volunteer," he says, "you could just come and work here." I said, "That sounds very appealing." And so I talked to him, and he told me the major's name. Eventually, I went by and talked with him and made me the same proposition. I said, "Well, if it takes volunteering, I'll volunteer for however long is necessary to -- if you can work the same kind of deal, that" -- and he says, "We could do that." He said, "We will have to -- we'll let you know." See, George [Jackson] [19:55] didn't even have to take basic training.

INT: Wow.

WS: And [20:00] he said, "We'll let you know." And so November the 22nd, I got a call that said, "Okay, you come help with this. Several changes have been made. You've got to -- you've got to take basic training." Now, I had a choice of them, of several basic training facilities. Well, since my brother was at Camp [Wheeler?] [20:24], which was an infantry training center, basic training center, I said, "Well, I'll just go down there," because we could -- we can get home at such and such [phonetic]. So that's how I got to Camp [Wheeler?] [20:39].

INT: And so this was November of '41?

WS: This was November of '41. While I was waiting at Fort Mac [phonetic], that's where one of the induction stations -- that's where I was after I went into the Army [20:55]. I had this [21:00] -- they put me on it [unintelligible] at Fort McPherson [21:07]. And the first week was tremendous. I got KP'd three times --

[laughter]

-- and that was induction center where they have hundreds of recruits coming through for induction. If you remember that movie "Don't Tell Sarge" [phonetic], that I -- well, that's the way the induction ceremony was. That was very, very much like an induction center. So I was there and it kept getting closer to the end of the year. They weren't taking as many in. They slowed down so there wasn't that many persons available for these jobs that were necessary around the camp. And that's how and why I got KP'd so many [22:00] times. And --

INT: So I guess you'd only been in the Army [22:04] then for a couple weeks when Pearl Harbor [22:06] happened?

WS: That's right. That's right. I was there. In fact, they put us through all that. They taught us the Army [22:15] routine and taught us how to drill, how to salute and how to dress and how to make a cot and all that stuff. And then they send us to -- they assigned us to guard duty. They gave us an empty rifle. It had to be empty because we didn't know how to shoot one of those things. And so I was on guard duty on December the 6th. That day we were the only two [unintelligible] and I spent that night -- I remember I was enthusiastic about it. I loved doing what I was doing and I was marching -- I was marching [23:00] my post too fast, and this officer said, "Son, you don't have to walk so fast. Just take it easy."

[laughter]

And so I [unintelligible] that night and I was in the guardhouse, how quiet it was, and it was a radio going on there at the time I think, there. And I just remember that, how quiet it was and how that music sounded. But I -- after my time, I -- my four hours off, I went

into the barracks where they had all the books and blankets, the mattresses rolled up. You couldn't take all the things. I had to keep it [unintelligible] and I was leaning back, getting some rest, and this guy stuck his head in the door [24:00], says, "Pearl Harbor's [24:01] been bombed." And he happened to be the guy that always passed rumors. He was an old Army [24:07] man and he was good for rumors. And I said, "Oh, there he goes again." I didn't know what Pearl Harbor [24:15] was. And we didn't know for sure that it was a real thing. And so I finished my guard duty that day. I think Evelyn [Spivey] [24:33] came by, my sister, brought her by to see me there, and [unintelligible], and I was still wearing my belt and everything like that. But they're not -- the next morning, I remember they took us all into the orderly room, and we listened to Roosevelt [24:57] declare war, make his famous speech [25:00]. And I remember one of the non-coms telling us, he said, "Boys," he says, "things are different now. You may have been ignored on the streets, but you will not be ignored now. You get respect from everybody, and they want to take you in. And they want to feed you and do everything they can for you." And then he said that attitudes have changed and it's all right [phonetic]. But anyway, I went to Camp Wheeler [25:33] and I took my basic training there. And it -- well, when I first arrived, I was in -- first day or so I was there, I was way in over my head. I mean, they were a rough bunch of guys. There was a lot of them from Pennsylvania. It was just a crowded place. It was overwhelmed with soldiers and I remember being in the barracks and guys checking in, "Anybody here [26:00] from Pennsylvania? Anybody here from so and so?" But anyway, shortly thereafter, one of the -- they said, "We need somebody to work in headquarters. We need a typist there." Somebody said, "Is there a volunteer?" I volunteered [inaudible] or I'll wind up digging a

ditch. But it was a real sight. So I worked at the headquarters there, and I did all right.

They called me back for the next test. So -- and not soon afterwards, they transferred me to a unit training to be a common clerk. A common clerk was in the headquarters and he kept the boardroom report of who's missing, who's there, and who's on furlough, all that stuff. And they were giving us courses in that [27:00]. Am I taking too long?

INT: No, this is fine. This is great.

WS: But it was a different atmosphere. One of the first things that one of the non-coms says, "You won't be cursed. You won't be hearing all that foul language and everything. This is a little higher echelon that you're in now." And it proved to be true. And at that was [inaudible]. We had a -- we had a teacher there and he had an impairment in his speech. And we were working, typing some exercises one day -- and I was sitting in the back and I was whistling. I was just -- and he goes, "Whatever's going on, boy, I will [unintelligible] typing," and I was whistling. And he said, "Someone is whistling in the class. It will cease [28:00]." I kept on whistling.

[laughter]

So everyone got quiet and I looked around, and everybody was looking at me, and he said, "Someone is whistling in the class. It will cease." It was that time when all those guys when they looked to me, they said, "Well, welcome to the class."

[laughter]

And we had some great times playing football, and I hurt my shoulder. I tried to block a fellow and I thought I broke it. In fact, I had to go see the medic. And he said, "Boy, you better be hurt," because a lot of guys -- we called it "gold bricking" if you tried to get out of work. But I said, "I can't hardly raise my arm." And so it got better but that boy I

happened to block -- I -- later [29:00] on, after the war, I was walking down the street and I saw this officer sort of hobbling along and it was him. And he had been over in France [29:10], I think. He had gotten wounded in the leg or something. And we recognized one another and we had a good talk. But they were a fine bunch of boys there and I -- we had marches, 10 mile marches. One time with a light load, the next time with a 100 pound pack and all that. But there, I took all that in stride.

INT: Sure.

WS: It was great except night maneuvers, now. Night maneuvers were a different story. It was more confusing, such as that. And I could go on little stories about that, but I won't [laughs]. But I had a friend, he was a Jewish [29:58] friend. And [30:00] I remember he had on his heavy coat. There was a creek near my [unintelligible] here, and something goes, "Plop." [unintelligible] out in the middle of the creek. So I just died. It was the funniest thing I've ever seen. But -- so we -- the -- so really, the corps that was making the Army [30:27] at the time was the old Army that knew the routine. They knew the Army manual frontwards and backwards. They were the ones that would teach us. And I remember one in particular. We had inspections every Friday. They would inspect your bunks, your area, where you sit your clothes and your footlocker. And they'd come across [unintelligible], and if you had some aftershave lotion [31:00], things that make you smell good, the officer didn't like that. He said, "A soldier don't need that." And they'd giggled us, and that meant that we had -- we couldn't go on leave that night. And everybody was pretty upset was the old sergeant. He came by -- he looks at it and he says, "A soldier don't supposed to smell like no whore."
[laughter]

But they were -- they were a novel bunch of men, these old soldiers. They knew what they were doing, but their off times consisted of drinking, chasing women, and gambling. And they would -- they would get their pay and go downtown. And they'd come back the next day hung over and broke [laughs]. That was the life of some of them, but I [32:00] - - and then I enjoyed my experience on the firing range. That was a great time.

INT: I take it you learned on the 03 Springfields?

WS: Yes, yeah, that's right. Yeah, we didn't have -- there was only one or two -- I'm sorry, M1s there. I got to fire it one time, but it jammed every time I tried.

INT: Oh, really?

WS: Yes, that's the one experience. But that 03 was a very accurate rifle. And the -- in one of the competitions says, "If you have fired a rifle, you're in better shape than somebody who has [unintelligible]." He said, "You -- because you've probably learned a lot along the way [phonetic]." And they told us how to do it, how to set the bullseye. The Deputy rifle -- it's the bottom of the bullseye, how to hold your strap with your rifle and just [33:00] squeeze the trigger, not to jerk it. And you get that right and your -- that rifle [unintelligible], you'd get a bullseye. And I did very good on that, but if you missed, you got a Maggie's drawers. That was a red flag. So you'd miss the whole target but I didn't get one. I won a marksmanship medal for that and I was right proud of that. But I remember it. They had a firing line. They had a line behind it where you'd sit, waiting to use the firing line. And of course, they would keep everyone, keep everything downrange. And while some of them were firing, I raised my rifle up to see if I had it cleaned good. And before you knew it, I had a sergeant in my face, and he was saying some very nasty things to me [34:00] [laughs]. I remember that very well. And -- but

when I got on the firing line, I enjoyed that day. I don't think the training -- that early training was insufficient of what really transpired later on. It was not sufficient training. But I finished that and I finished with my basic training. And these guys I'm training with, they said -- they were all getting ready to ship out. One says, "Spivey, why don't you go with us?" And I thought, "I just can't do it. I hate to leave these guys, but the major says, 'Well, you can still come up here.'" So I took that. I [unintelligible] could still get a hold of my folks then, still serving there and I did it. That was in about February of [35:00] '42, February or March. And then I stayed there -- I worked at [35:10] [unintelligible] headquarters in the communication part where we had to type media graphs [phonetic] and -- for publishing, publication, and such as that. It was an easy job. And --

INT: And your rank at this time was still private?

WS: Still private, yes.

INT: Was -- and do you -- was it private or PFC?

WS: I don't remember just when I made PFC. [unintelligible]

INT: Sure.

WS: Okay. But -- well, let's see, where was I? We were -- yeah, yeah, well they said that they were going to place all the males with [36:00] females. WACs [36:02], Women Auxiliary Corps. Just shortly after, I think it was the 4th of July of 1942, they said, "We need three men to go to Washington, D.C. [36:13]." But we don't know where you go from there. And [unintelligible] and said, "I'm going." I said, "You're going, I guess I'm going, too." And so that evening, we along with a fellow named George Bynum [36:29] [phonetic], he was a little higher level and he was in charge of the three of us.

INT: Okay.

WS: And so we rode the train that night and got into Washington [36:39] the next morning.

And we were barracked at Fort Myers [36:43], south post.

INT: Okay.

WS: I think that's where the quarter -- there was a lot of people that were in transit. But then we were taken to the admissions building and we were -- George [Bynum] [36:56] took charge of us and they had put us in charge with one other [37:00] officer. If I remember correctly, he took us up to a colonel who knew George, Catesby ap -- Catesby [ap] Jones [37:09]. And I still was uncertain about what we was going to do here. But sooner or later, I began to see German-American [37:18] boys, Italian-American [37:22] boys.

And so we got wind of something of that nature was going on.

INT: But this was still at Fort Myers [37:26]?

WS: Still at Fort Myers before we got there. But eventually, they let it be known that we were going to go to Fort Hunt [37:37]. They were in the process of getting it ready for us then. So July the 13th, I went to -- we were trucked to Fort Hunt [37:49]. And well, I guess they -- we -- they had already had the barracks ready for us. A like I said, when we went in [38:00], if I remember correctly, on the right, there was an old Victorian building. But right behind us, as we went on the left, was that big building that we never got any access to.

INT: Right.

WS: That's what you called the Creamery [38:13]?

INT: Yes, that's -- if we're talking about the same building. It would have been the old post hospital from when the fort was first built.

WS: Is that so? Oh, I see.

INT: And then it was later called the -- referred to as the Creamery [38:24].

WS: Oh, yeah. So then we were barracked there and --

INT: Do you remember exactly where your barracks were?

WS: Well, as you go in, I think you pass the drill field and it was on -- as you go past that first house on the right, farther down, about 200 yards or so, they had a couple of barracks there.

INT: The long barracks building?

WS: The long barracks with bunks on each side. And so that's where we were stationed.

INT: Got you.

WS: And later along [39:00], we started working there where they activated the stockade, a corporal [unintelligible] Schlesinger for a while.

INT: Okay.

WS: And a Lawrence Schuette [39:15] [phonetic] -- Schuette, I remember, was very diligent about what he did. And I [unintelligible] expertise is -- the measure of expertise [unintelligible]. And so I continued on with the administrative duties that way, but in the meantime, we had a lot of close quarter drills in calisthenics and things like that.

INT: While you were at Fort Hunt [39:38]?

WS: While we were at Fort Hunt. And I could handle that very well. I -- in fact, I -- they asked me to -- they took [unintelligible], "You do it." And so I did it very well. And the boy that was a first sergeant, at that time -- [Caspar] Schenk [39:57], S-C-H-E-N-K, I was really [40:00] -- he and I were discharged at Fort Belvoir [40:04] at the same time. But for some reason, he was being moved to first sergeant and he was doing very well as first

sergeant. He made it look easy. And so I had done some close order drills and calisthenics and things, everything. He says, "Why don't you take over this job spot?" I said, "No, I don't think I'm qualified to be a first sergeant." And then we had a Captain Kubala [40:33]. He might have been a lieutenant then, Kubala, he had a German accent. And incidentally, when we were drilling, I made [unintelligible]. He bounced. [laughter]

He said, "I [unintelligible]." But [41:00] -- I forgot where I was.

INT: You said that they had asked if you would be first sergeant and you had said --

WS: Yeah, yeah, that's right. And so I accepted it also, and -- but it turned out to be one of the roughest, toughest jobs I ever had. It really was because you -- the first sergeant, he was right in the middle. He had the company commander on the one side. He had the men on the other.

INT: So you went from private to first sergeant just like that? You we were --

WS: Well, just acting, just acting.

INT: Acting, got you.

WS: You know what? In between that, somewhere, I was made private first class and then I was made a corporal [phonetic].

INT: Corporal, sure.

WS: And so I took over that job and it was -- like I said, it was hard. You had a lot of pressure on you. And the commanding officer at that time, I didn't get along too well. Kubala [41:57] was gone. And this one that [42:00] -- I think he [unintelligible] somebody else, he would refer [unintelligible]. But I did my very best and I enjoyed certain aspects of it, about taking care of the men and seeing if they were -- if they had their furloughs, that

they had their passes, and keeping up with those who were sick and all that. And some of the Germans-American [42:24] boys wanted to change their name. And I learned the process of how to do that. They actually -- the process of checking those things off the paperwork [phonetic] and all that. So I did that for several boys, and I'd take care of the payroll. You had to make sure that they -- mess hall had the right number of people and the right number -- right amount of food. And so it was a pretty heavy responsibility.

INT: Do you remember about how [43:00] many men you were in charge of at this point or were you in charge of every -- all the enlisted men at Fort Hunt [43:08] or a smaller group of the enlisted men?

WS: Well, I was in charge of those two barracks.

INT: The two barracks?

WS: Yes.

INT: Okay, all the men that are in two barracks?

WS: Yeah, [affirmative], that were there, that was -- we had interrogators.

INT: Okay.

WS: And incidentally, one -- I don't know if he's on your records or not. Did you have a John Beck [43:33], B-E-C-K?

INT: I'm not -- I'll have to check. It doesn't ring a bell, but --

WS: He was a [unintelligible]. When I introduced the [unintelligible] to him, he gave me an idea of what being first sergeant's like because he's coming -- he was transferred in, and I was there in the headquarters office. And he says, "I have a furlough. I have a three day pass coming up [44:00]." I said, "Well, I don't know anything about it." And he had a French fit. He just threw a tantrum. I didn't want to get into it. I said, "Well, I'll check

with the captain. I'll check with the captain."

[audio break]

I think he's [unintelligible]. And then John Beck [44:22], he was -- he was a French man, and ever since the war, he was French. He was a womanizer. He was highly intelligent and he would write parodies and jokes and lyrics about the orders that come down -- he'd poke fun at them. And -- but he was a real character. And so I had that job for over a year and it was very -- like I said, it was a very stressful time. But when the time comes for me to be relieved of that, I was glad [45:00]. And --

INT: And we'll get into this later, but you were also -- you were working in the evaluation section [45:07] at this point?

WS: No, no --

INT: Oh, you weren't? Okay.

WS: I was just first sergeant, and that took all of my time.

INT: Just doing administrative matters and whatnot?

WS: That's right. That's right. Inspection times -- we had inspections every Friday, and you had to follow the captain along, and he'd make his comments about this one did that and this one did that and so forth. And you'd keep going with all that.

INT: At this -- for that first year, did you really know what was going on at Fort Hunt [45:33]? Did the folks, the German-Americans [45:36] you were with and -- did they tell you what was going on?

WS: Well, we -- yes because I heard that they were monitoring the conversations.

INT: Now, you obviously knew there were prisoners [45:50] that were there.

WS: That's right. That's right.

INT: I'm sure you could see that.

WS: That's right. We knew that there were prisoners there and that these German-American [45:57] boys were working. They all stayed [46:00] in one section of the barracks. They stayed together.

INT: Okay.

WS: And so when the time came for our full time first sergeant, they selected Clarence Ost [46:17], O-S-T and he became the first sergeant. And so a few days later, I was transferred to the evaluation section [46:28].

INT: So this would have been some time in 1943, you think?

WS: Something like that, yes. And so then I appreciated that. And it was -- it was a different time altogether. It was in the Quonset hut right next to the barracks. And like I say, they got the interrogations there from the PWs [46:55]. Then a Major [Stephen] Szlapka [46:58] -- he was the captain at that time [47:00]. He and Sergeant [Arthur] Sharp [47:02] would go over these reports and they would make the decisions about which ones were relevant. We had to type up the whole -- all the interrogations and they'd make an excerpt of the important items in that particular interrogation. And so like I say, one day the major came by and says, "I was working on that fellow over there on the right." And it was this one point that when -- the debris from the African [47:39] campaign. And I was just -- I couldn't tell much about it, but anyway, he -- the major corpsman says, "I'm having an awful time keeping up with these interrogations and these extracts." He said, "I can never find what I want when I want it." He says, "I want [48:00] you to see -- I want you to make some sense out of this statement, where I can find what I want." He says, "And I would like -- I'd like to have it on my desk Monday," and that was on

Saturday [laughs]. So I took the interrogations on and it was -- pretty soon it became obvious that what it needed was organization. And so -- and I began to organize the interrogations. There were IRs and the extracts, the EXs, and I gave each one a number, cross referred to the extracts and to the interrogations and vice versa. And then I suggested that we have a database, get a database of the subjects current in each one of the interrogations. So that if someone asked, say, "Oh, what about Stuttgart?" something in Stuttgart [49:00]. Well, he had an index card there that showed all the interrogations and the information we had on that particular type.

INT: Got you.

WS: And the major was -- he said, "You are going to be my chief clerk [phonetic]." Now -- and he liked that. And it did put organization into what we were doing. We didn't have any trouble with that. And we had -- they had sketches come through drawn by the PWs [49:29] of cities, plants, and things like that. And I was just amazed at how they got that information, so much of it, but --

INT: So you went through and assigned this numbering system to everything --

WS: Yes.

INT: -- from every single interrogation that was going on?

WS: That's right. Everyone that came through there, we did that cross referencing. So -- and we kept it -- we kept them in binders [50:00] -- those interrogations in binders. And we had -- and we had the extracts in binders, and you could always find the extracts from the -- from the interrogation. If you wanted me to put them together, I can put them together.

INT: Now, what you refer to as an extract, was that the actual recording? Is that when the room monitor made a recording of a conversation?

WS: Yes.

INT: Or what was the extract?

WS: Well, it was the information gained from the interrogation, what was learned in the interrogation. The questions that was asked in this -- and the answers that the PWs [50:37] gave. That was it, and the subject covered. It would be -- we would have to type that entire interrogation. And it would be in German [50:53]. And then of course Major Szlapka [50:57] and Sergeant Sharp [51:00] would go over. They would make the extract and so forth. And that would be German [51:07] --

INT: Did they speak German?

WS: Sharp [51:11] was fluent in German [51:13]. I don't know about Major Szlapka [51:15]. Let me tell you something about Major Szlapka.

INT: Okay.

WS: He was a very interesting person. He was a Philadelphia lawyer, Polish -- Polish-American [51:27]. He had spent the last 20 some-odd years over in Europe [51:33] in France [51:34], taking care of the legal affairs of the Americans [51:41] that were there. And I think that he was -- he was knowledgeable. There were many people who were in the diplomatic corps because I remember his mentioning "Bill." And Bill, I think, was in the corps there [52:00]. But he was -- I know he was very fluent in French, and he was a very erudite man. He was smart, one of the smartest men I have ever seen on any subject. He was very intelligent, and you couldn't get ahead of him. He was always ahead of you. But he knew -- he took care of his evaluation section [52:28]. He wanted to see that they were -- that they were -- that they got the grade that they deserved. And that's how I got to be a staff sergeant and the others got their raise in the same way. Now,

Sergeant [Clyde] Cook [52:47], he would -- when they brought the officers through there -- people through there learned what was going on, he would give up. He had a little [53:00] speech he would give these people and explain to them the sketches they had, what they had, and such as that. He was very good at that and a major [unintelligible] that job. Ralph Jackson [53:13], he was a typist and he helped keep the record. He was my buddy. And Ralph Jackson [53:24] -- I don't want to give him a -- gave him a story, but he was -- and the major, he was always talking, "Boys, I want you to increase your reading. I want you to increase your vocabulary. I instruct you to learn it." Boy, I tell you, I'm always fixing to read. Ralph [53:46] had come up and said, "Well, let's make our exodus." I said, "What did you say, Ralph?" He said, "Exodus, E-X-O-D-U-S." I said, "You mean exodus, don't you?"

[laughter]

[54:00] [unintelligible], we made our exodus.

[laughter]

He wanted to impress somebody, bless his heart. He was a fine fellow, but I loved Ralph Jackson [54:18]. And -- but -- and so that's the way it went for most of the time that I was in the evaluation section [54:33]. We would be getting all this information and we - - oftentimes, we would have these officers coming through. Excuse me, here comes my daughter.

INT: Oh, sure. I'll just pause --

[audio break]

WS: And like I say, the -- they would give us a description [55:00] of what they needed to know and the jobs. I had never been down there. And the -- being down there

[inaudible]. And oftentimes, we were with these boys who drew the interrogation and such as that. And like I'd say, there was one Russian [55:34] interrogator there. Yes, and I told you about him. I don't know if you remember that or not, but we were in [unintelligible] one day.

INT: Great. Why don't you go ahead and tell that story?

WS: [laughs] And we had this Texan there. I -- he was a good fellow. I loved him but he was a hail fellow well met, never met a stranger, and this stoic Russian [55:57]. And Russians are stoic anyway [56:00] and he was Russian as Russian as far as I go. He talked not a lot [phonetic] and the sergeant says, "Say there, partner, I don't believe I know your name." And to the sergeant -- the Russian [56:19] turned to him, kind of looked him up and down, and says, "You couldn't pronounce it."

[laughter]

And I thought -- I fell out of line, it hit that [phonetic]. But he's the one that later on -- that one of his interrogations came out with all these atomic [56:42] symbols and molecules such as that. I didn't think anything about it, but the next day, boy, he said -- and he still -- everything that was done there was either confidential, secret, or top secret. They said, "Stamp that stuff top secret [57:00]," the major says, "And that goes out of here to the Pentagon [57:04] today, get rid of that." So I always said, "Well, they must have had something hot there." I didn't know. I thought maybe it was a -- there was a diagram of or a new kind of a poison or something. I didn't know what it was. But it was hot. It was -- I think it was relative to the atomic [57:28] energy. And if I remember correctly, it wasn't long after that that Russian was transferred out of there, but I didn't see him.

INT: Okay, and we he -- do you know -- he wasn't an officer, was he? Was he a sergeant or something?

WS: I think he was an enlisted man.

INT: Okay.

WS: I think he was an enlisted man.

INT: You don't recall his name?

WS: No, I wish I could. I really do.

INT: You couldn't have pronounced it anyhow, so --

WS: [laughs] Amen [58:00]. But I just bided my time. I just spent my time listening and watching and trying to figure these people out because I was in an element that I had never been in before. In fact, it was just three southerners there. And one day, this officer approached Arthur Wheelchel [58:25] myself, and I don't know whether Bynum was there or not. He said, "How in the hell did you guys get in this outfit?"

[laughter]

Your guess is as good as mine. But it was a different atmosphere. These guys were so highly educated. Some come through there and they didn't stay long, but some of them spoke four languages. And I was just amazed at their [59:00] intellectual level and listening to them at night in their bull sessions, in their conversations, how broad was their knowledge of so many things. And that impressed me very much. That was -- especially so of [unintelligible], listening to him and some of the others. Some of the others may be in that big picture --

INT: Oh, right.

WS: -- of the group, that they were in there. And I just was trying to learn, trying to figure out

what they were talking about. And it was at that point that I was beginning to get an education. I need to read more. I need to study more. I need to know what's going on, that's why [unintelligible] than I have in the past because [unintelligible] -- at that time, I enjoyed novels [01:00:00] [phonetic] and reading history such as that, but not to the extent that [unintelligible] to get a real understanding of what was going on. So I think that was to better my education. From that time on, I started reading Time magazine which was a much better magazine then than it was -- and tried to keep abreast. I read two newspapers a day and I read Time magazine. And I just wanted to increase my learning level. I said, "That's important," and I started to read classics, all the classics that I could get a hold of. That increased my knowledge of what was going on, what these guys were talking about a lot of times.

INT: Sure, sure. Was there a post library or anything like that?

WS: No.

INT: Okay, so you had to go out to get any --

WS: That's right. Well, it -- I don't know how I got [01:01:00] my books, but I did have some books. There may have been one then. We had a PX [01:01:04] there. We had a PX and incidentally, of the personnel that were there, they had some that were influential. One was an officer named [Willis] Best [01:01:21], B-E-S-T and I understand that he was a scion of a -- of people who owned department stores of that name in New York. Now, I may be mistaken, but that was my impression of him, that he came from a very wealthy family. And then there was a [inaudible] there, and I understand he was probably [inaudible]. And the thing about him, though, is that he looked like a street person. All I remember about him is going to the PX [01:01:57] at night and he would be sitting at the

table with about [01:02:00] 20 beer bottles. I thought that -- I never carried a conversation on with him, but I just wondered what he was doing there. What was his role there?

INT: Sure, sure.

WS: But that was the kind of personnel you ran into there, all kinds --

INT: Sure.

WS: There were all kinds, like the John Becks [01:02:29].

INT: Right.

WS: And they didn't have a chapel there.

INT: Okay, I was going to ask that. Okay.

WS: If you wanted to go to church, there was a truck every Sunday morning. There was a truck that goes to Fort Belvoir [01:02:44].

INT: Okay.

WS: And it was an interesting fact. There would be about three Protestants there and 12 hungover Catholics [laughs]. They had been out carousing at night, but [01:03:00] boy, they would go to mass the next day. They were slumped over. There was just about three or four of us Protestants. And the only -- there was a good pastor. What was it? What do they call these officers?

INT: A chaplain?

WS: Chaplains, yeah. There was one that -- he was a Presbyterian and his sermons were very impressive. And incidentally, while I was there on the weekends, when we could be [unintelligible], I would come downtown and I attended the Calvary Baptist Church there. And they had a choir that was ooh; at that time, you see, the [unintelligible] had all

the best of everything. And that choir -- that was the first time I learned the hallelujah chorus [01:04:00]. Wow, it just overwhelmed me. That was one of the most beautiful things I ever heard. But we were in town on the weekends, we would do that. And incidentally, the pastor that I mentioned -- a fellow -- this was downtown Washington [01:04:19]. And the pastor of this church mentioned another pastor of a church there by the name of Peter Marshal. Ever heard of Peter Marshal [01:04:28]?

INT: [affirmative]

WS: Well, he was the chaplain of the Congress [01:04:33] for a while. And I learned that -- and he had had a congregational church in Atlanta [01:04:43] while I was there. And I wished that I had gone to --

INT: Ah, sure.

WS: In fact, his wife wrote a book and they made a movie on his life.

INT: Oh, really?

WS: Yes. Now, I regularly regret that I didn't get to hear Peter Marshal [01:05:00] preach. He was a Scottish man, had the Scottish accent. And I wish I had been able to hear him, but that's it. We went to church -- we had to get on the bus at -- I mean, on the truck, and it was six by six, going to Fort Belvoir [01:05:22].

INT: Do you recall if there were -- if there were services for any of the Jewish [01:05:29] soldiers who we were there since there were a sizable number of them?

WS: Not that I know of.

[End of Tape 1A]

[Beginning of Tape 1B]

INT: Okay, today is August 30th, 2006. Again, this is National Park Service Ranger Brandon

Bies here with Wayne Spivey at his home in Marietta, Georgia, taking some notes on his experiences at Fort Hunt. And this is the second recording in a series of interviews. So I think what we'll talk about now a little bit, Wayne, is what you remember about Fort Hunt [00:35] itself in terms of the physical description. Did -- what do you remember about where the evaluation section [00:43] was housed? You had mentioned that it was in a sort of Quonset [00:45] hut or something?

WS: Yes, yes. It was in a Quonset hut, and to my recollection, it was just next door to the stockade. We were in close proximity to the stockade [01:00]. And there was no way to -- I guess we had a stove in there for the winter. I don't know, but in the summer, it was pretty hot and we had fans --

INT: Oh, okay.

WS: -- to cool it off. But I know it was a pretty uncomfortable place at times. But we had work to do and so that overrode all the objections. We knew that that's the best we were going to get and so that's where we worked and we were perfectly happy in doing so.

INT: Would there be guards stationed right outside of your Quonset [01:44] hut?

WS: Not that I know of.

INT: Okay.

WS: Guards were strictly around the stockade. They were confined to the stockade. And there was a -- there was a group of soldiers that were brought in there, I think for maintenance [02:00] reasons, and some of them may have been guards, such as that, primarily they were brought in there to help keep us on the fort, in the facilities. And they were -- we were never -- not much talk between us and them except, at one time, they became upset that the non-coms in the intelligence unit were not being subjected to

the same extracurricular -- or extra work that they were, for instance KP, and yard maintenance and such as that. And one day, the major -- the colonel brought them all together, and he pointed out very vividly, he said [03:00] regarding our unit, "These men were not brought here to do KP, nor to do yard maintenance. They were brought here for a specific purpose. They are not to do those things. That is why you were brought here." It sounded a little rough [laughs], but that was the truth. And he says, "I don't want to hear any more talk about you wanting these men to do what you have been doing." And they sort of stuck by themselves. I remember we had -- we had baseball games with them --

INT: Really?

WS: -- and football. Yes. And they took their -- they took their football very seriously. I mean, to a point, it appalled me because I was on the sideline and Schuette [03:53] was running the ball. Schuette was fast on his feet. He could dart like [04:00] a dart, insect. And this guy was running alongside of him; "Kick him in the nuts! Kick him in the nuts!" I looked at him, like, "What? What kind of football do you want?"

[laughter]

But I was appalled at the viciousness that they had in their competition. But then they would play softball. There was competition there. In our extracurricular activities, we -- volleyball, we did a lot of volleyball.

INT: Really?

WS: In fact, we thought we were pretty good. And there was a boy named [Sterling] Callahan [04:49]. And I -- you probably got it already?

INT: Yeah, I think we mentioned him before.

WS: He was a Mormon.

INT: Right, right.

WS: And he had friends there [05:00] in D.C. [05:02]. And they invited us to play against them. We thought we were pretty good. One evening, we went out to play them. They just played us off our feet.

[laughter]

They made us look like rank amateurs. They don't know playing now [phonetic]. They were going to slaughter us, and they pretty well succeeded. But they were real nice.

They fed us afterwards and all that.

INT: So where did you do this sort of stuff at Fort Hunt [05:32]? On the parade ground or was there a separate area where there were ball fields?

WS: Oh, it was close to the parade ground. I know we had a volleyball net there, such as that. And I don't know who all played there. I'm not aware that any of the PWs [05:49] were able to participate with us. It's possible with some later on that they used for [06:00] other jobs around may have, but I don't think so. But that was the recreational activities we had. There weren't many recreational activities there on the post. It was all business. And we would get off at night. Well, we would have chow and then we would do -- we were free to associate with one another. We'd go down to the PX [06:33]. They had a nice PX down there. And they had tables and they sold beer there. And you could get soft drinks. You could get a number of items down at the PX [06:46]. And like I told you, some of them were just sitting around a table and got drunk [laughs]. But I didn't -- I didn't [07:00] [unintelligible]. It didn't have much appeal with me. And I remember later on in the war, they had a poker game down in the latrine. And it lasted all night

long, these guys playing poker. Found them the next morning, and they were still there playing poker, and I was amazed. There must have been a good bit of money exchanged in there because there were certain members, I think Clarence Ost [07:33] was one of them that loved to gamble.

INT: And was that permitted by the officers or was that why they were doing it in --

WS: I really don't know. I guess -- I really just don't know how they did it, but I definitely remember that. They were down there in the latrine playing poker all night long [laughs] [08:00]. I thought it was rather foolish. I'm not a gambler, though.

INT: Sure.

WS: So that's the way it was. Now, on my free time, we could go in town. Sometimes they would take us in the truck. And it was -- the place they would unload us was close to 14th Avenue and a post office there. I remember us going across the bridge, into Washington, D.C. [08:30] on -- I think it was 14th Avenue Bridge that we crossed.

INT: Sure.

WS: And near that was -- they would unload us. And then from then on, we were on our own. And we headed for the USOs [08:46] and other places of entertainment; if there were shows downtown, we would go to those. And they were -- these USOs [08:58] sometimes they'd stay open until 11:00 [09:00], and there'd be dancing and jitterbugging [phonetic], and you could sit at the table and talk to the girls. And we made our circuits, one to the other. And it was fun. Yeah, Washington, D.C. [09:20] at that time was loaded with people. In a certain sense, it was a soldier's paradise because there were WACs [09:30], there were WAVEs [09:31], there were all kind of females there, those that come in from out of town to work in the departments there. And it was very

interesting and fun.

INT: Sure. Did you mostly go in to town on weekends or would you go on weeknights as well?

WS: It was mostly on the weekends I think. Yeah.

INT: Would you normally be working at Fort Hunt [10:00] -- was it sort of Monday through Friday sort of operation?

WS: It was pretty much that. It was --

INT: Okay, so you had your weekends largely to yourselves?

WS: That's right. We would start the day with reveille. We had to be there for the raising of the flag. And in the end, it was retreat. We'd go through the normal Army [10:21] routines. We would do all that. And then we were pretty much on our own. Sometimes if you got a three day pass, you would go in to Washington [10:31]. And the USOs [10:34] always had a place for somebody to sleep, and we could find one of those. And that way you could do sightseeing around there. And so that was -- that was our means of entertainment. I don't want to jump the gun, but Evelyn [10:54] and I -- we [11:00] -- when she first came up there, we'd go to church on Sunday when -- well, yeah, we were living off the post. And, I mean, one time we went to the -- it was a -- I think it was a House of -- it may have been the Senate [11:21]. And it was the Senate because Claude Pepper [11:26] and Robert Taft [11:26] were debating. And we came in and she was such a knockout girl. And me and my uniform -- we just [unintelligible] front of the balcony where we could see the whole block. Then the [unintelligible] and I was impressed by the kind treatments they gave us that way. And we worked the USOs [12:00]. I remember one time we stopped -- this was when I was married, of course

[laughs]. We -- it -- what nice clothes they had worn. And you know they had these dances and they had these balls with reflecting lights through them.

INT: Sure.

WS: And I remember that and they played this -- all this great music there. "Bésame Mucho" we danced by. And we met two cute little Irish, colleen girls and they were there -- they were dolls. And we had a great time, me and a boy named Richard. And he incidentally -- and when I went to town with him, I just spent my time laughing because he could do all kind of action. He could act like a drunk. He would go in and out of the street, and all of a sudden, he'd start acting like a drunk, and I'd just collapse against the wall laughing [13:00], "There goes that dunce." And shows -- one of the most memorable shows I can remember -- I don't remember if it was while Evelyn [13:12] was there, it may have been. But Sid Caesar had a show, he was in something musical, "Stars and Spars." He was in the merchant marines. I had never heard of him before. But he put on his act on the stage of the theater there on 14th Street. And I never laughed so much in all my life. I thought he was the funniest man I had ever heard because the skits that he did, his accents and everything, he was such a perfect comedian. And I said to myself then, "That man is going a long way as a comedian," because he was really funny. And [14:00] that's about it. After we got married -- I don't want to jump the gun here.

INT: Oh, that's fine. We can cover this again later. We can --

WS: Well, after we got married, George and I -- and we -- this Calvary church on Easters and special holidays like that. And like I said, they had people with great musical talent there in their choir. And some of them would get up and they'd sing [unintelligible]. I remember George [Jackson] [14:38] -- I don't remember [unintelligible], but somehow he

said, "Don't seem appropriate to me for a church." The church service and some of the songs that they sang [phonetic] -- I can't tell [laughs]. It was up to him. But that -- they just had some spectacular music [15:00] and they had something that I had never seen before. They had a processional choir and a recessional choir and I thought that was very impressive. And like I said, they had very impressive music. And as for the preaching such as that, I thought it was a little on the liberal side at that time. And they preached -- some of them, they preached [unintelligible] philosophical gymnastics up there, or intellectual gymnastics, to prove -- it was ways to prove the validity of the Christian faith; you know what I'm saying? But the way they went about it, I thought, was a little showy, a little unnecessary [16:00] to do that. But that was their way of worship and nothing new in that. But as I told you, that's where I first heard the hallelujah chorus.

INT: Right.

WS: And I thought, "Boy, it must be great to be able to sing that song." But later on, we tried it at my church, and now we do it from memory. I can do it from memory. It's great -- it's really like the crown glory, I think, of Christian music. And now we do it from memory.

[laughter]

INT: So getting back to Fort Hunt [16:49] and what a typical day would be like, you mentioned that there was reveille in the morning. Do you remember what time reveille was?

WS: It was rather early, about 6:00 I think [17:00], something like that. The best I can recall, we had to do that, and then we'd have calisthenics, too. We'd have to go out and do our calisthenics.

INT: Right.

WS: And then we would have our meals in the mess hall. And we had good food. They provided us with very good food there.

INT: Did you ever hear anything about the cooks or who was doing the cooking?

WS: I didn't know any of them, but some of them were good cooks, and some of them were not such good cooks.

[laughter]

I knew that, and I know we were going through the chow line and he says -- they come to this pie, say, "Oh, we got the pumpkin pie." I said, "That's not pumpkin pie, that's sweet potato pie." And they turned around, "It's sweet potato pie," and it looked just like the other.

INT: Sure, yeah.

WS: That was the difference between the north and the south [18:00].

INT: Was the mess hall just for enlisted men or could -- would officers eat there? Would they eat separate?

WS: That's a good question. I think they ought -- I'm just not certain. I really can't recall. It may have been that they were separated because I can't recall the officers being there. Usually, when the officers come in, everybody would stand up, attention, and all that. And I don't think they were. I may be wrong there because maybe we [unintelligible] on that score.

INT: How was the level of military courtesy at the fort? Every time you'd see an officer, would you salute or I mean --

WS: It was more relaxed there. It wasn't as strict as it would be on the street. Of course, you

had to respect the [19:00] officers. No doubt of that. But, for instance, when we came in to work, there were majors, such as that, and none of that was exchanged. I mean, you could talk more freely with the officers there than you could, say, on the outside in a regular -- it was more of a person-to-person thing than the officer -- noncommissioned people was much more relaxed. They could talk more frankly to us, and we could talk frankly to them.

INT: Would -- another -- this is kind of changing the topic a little bit, but in terms of everyday activities, was there weapon inspection? Did you even carry any weapons when you were there, your sidearms or anything?

WS: We did not have weapons nor sidearms at Fort Hunt [19:57]. I never saw any when I was there [20:00].

INT: What about the -- did the guards have --

WS: Now, the guards did, yes. They were around the stockade. In fact, I remember, if I'm not sorely mistaken, that one POW [20:14] was killed in an escape.

INT: Do you remember anything else about that incident?

WS: No, except that I remember them talking about it, that one had been killed. I don't know why -- what he thought or how he thought he was going to escape such a secure place.

INT: You don't remember if they had a firing range or a target range or anything like that?

WS: No, they did not.

INT: They did not? Okay. Okay.

WS: No, that -- it was not -- the ordinary routine, other than the observances of the necessary routines, it was not [21:00] like the regular Army [21:03], I will say. It was more intense on the work that had to be done there. And such as that, but like I say, you had to respect

the officers because they had -- you were in their hands, and they can do just about anything they wanted to with you.

[laughter]

You better respect them.

INT: Right. With the weapons -- and you may not remember this, and that's okay. Do you remember what type of weapons the guards had, if they had M1s or 03s?

WS: No, I have no idea. I can't remember because I didn't get that close to them.

INT: Right, you don't remember if they had machine guns or anything in the guard towers?

WS: No, I could not accurately say --

INT: Okay, okay.

WS: -- if they had one or the other.

INT: Okay.

WS: We must have had some kind of weapons [22:00] there, but the chances of prisoners [22:03] trying to make -- escape there, I think, was pretty obscure, pretty unlikely.

INT: So we had started talking about the daily schedule, and there being reveille in the morning, then calisthenics, and then after that, would you go to --

WS: We would go to work.

INT: Okay.

WS: We would go out, we would march down to the area where we worked. And I remember coming back, when I was first sergeant, we would do our military maneuvers --

INT: Really? So you --

WS: -- as far as left flank march, right flank march, to the rear march, forward march. So left right march, right of right march, forward march, rear march, and we'd just go through

the whole routine. That was fun, doing that. Sometimes we'd just double time back to the barracks [23:00].

INT: And so I take it you worked in the evaluation section [23:05] hut up until -- then you have a lunch break, I presume?

WS: Yes.

INT: Okay, so --

WS: That's right. And this time, when you heard the mess call, phew.

INT: And how would you hear? Was it over a speaker? Was it --

WS: It was over a speaker system.

INT: Okay, so they had a PA system or something?

WS: Yes, they had a PA system to put the bugle on to call.

INT: Okay.

WS: And I could hear it at night, they'd play taps.

INT: Was there an actual bugler or was it just a recorded --

WS: Recorded.

INT: Okay.

WS: It was usually recorded.

INT: Got you.

WS: They don't have a band and such.

INT: Okay, and so then you -- would you work again in the afternoon after lunch?

WS: Oh, yes.

INT: And then do you remember what time things usually ended up for the day?

WS: No, I can't remember the exact time --

INT: Sure.

WS: -- but it was pretty routinely about 6:00, 5:30, something like that, 4:30, whatever [24:00] they decided. [unintelligible] the colonel, he'd be -- major, he'd be ready to go when we were.

INT: Right.

WS: We waited till the bugle sounded and off we'd go.

INT: But then once 5:00, 6:00 came, you'd essentially be done with the day and --

WS: Oh, that's right. Unless there was some special reason, and there -- very seldom that was, they might have a special showing that were showing you something. And we saw, oftentimes, the latest news reels they would bring and show them to us.

INT: Do you remember where they would show them? There wasn't a theater or anything was there?

WS: They were certainly on the base, yes. And they -- I remember one -- showing the ones of the first fighter jets where they actually -- from the fighter pilots, where their first things [phonetic], "What in the hell was that?" when that plane went by. When they first -- and they showed pictures of the [25:00] first jet combat, they would show those things. And then of course they'd give us -- we would see the news reels of what was happening in the South Pacific and the rest of the country and such as that. It was, in my eyes, [unintelligible] that score.

INT: Did you ever have to work through the night or on weekends? I guess were there times every once in a while?

WS: We may have, but I can't recall.

INT: Okay.

WS: I really can't recall that, but we may have over on some occasion, but it was very rare that we had to do that. And, like I said, there was so much going on there. I just wondered what some of the men or what there [unintelligible] were -- was there at the camp [26:00]. There was some men there -- I understand that they were from Cleveland and they hadn't been on these Cleveland -- these great lake boats that operated there. And I swear, "I wonder why they're here." I never found out, but I knew they were hard drinking [unintelligible], get up in the morning before breakfast, there they were drinking beer and smoking a cigarette.

INT: Wow.

WS: Before breakfast, "God, you guys are killing yourselves," I would say [phonetic]. But there was all kinds there, all kinds: the educated, the uneducated, the ruthless, the un-ruthless, the kind, and the cruel. They're all there.

INT: Was there a jail or anything like that for Americans [27:00]? Or was there -- there's nothing --

WS: There were -- if there was, I didn't know about it.

INT: Okay, so if anybody screwed up, I mean, were there -- were there MPs [27:09]? Are -- we were the guards considered MPs or were they just guards?

WS: Just guards as far as I know. I don't think they were considered MPs.

INT: Okay.

WS: See, that's -- all I know is we just went in and out. They recognized us after a while, so we wouldn't necessarily show our pass every time we came up because they knew us. Sometimes the truck would bring us in. And I remember, when living off of the post, there was one named Eber Hall [27:09], he's on your records I'm sure.

INT: Okay.

WS: and he was from Missouri. And every -- he lived somewhere in the Jubal Early Homes there. And they were farmers, his wife, this farmer's wife, and he had been brought up on the farm. And one morning, they invited us for breakfast before [28:00] I had to go to retreat. And she must have got up at 3:30 or 4:00 to fix -- because she just had an enormous meal there for -- and that stove was so hot, and it was so hot in there. And there she was just working like a slave, just to fix us this glorious meal [laughs], this breakfast. And I was -- I said -- I thought to myself, "Now, those are typical Missouri people, Missouri farmers." They knew what life was all about. And he would take me to and from the post sometimes because he had an automobile there, and I don't know -- I can't remember where you parked an automobile if you had one. So obviously he did because I know he would pick me up in the morning [29:00] and get me to the post by reveille.

INT: And so is that how you would get there most days when you were living in the Jubal Homes --

WS: Yes, I -- one way of doing them like that [phonetic]: you either had somebody -- had somebody to transport you. I don't know how else you would have gotten there. If you was living off the post, it was up to you to get there, and you'd better be there.

[laughter]

And that's about the way it worked.

INT: Do you want to take a break now or do you want to keep going?

WS: Oh, what times is it? Let's take a break.

INT: Okay, that sounds good.

[End of Tape 1B]

[Beginning of Tape 2A]

INT: All righty. This morning is the morning of August 31st, 2006. This is National Park Service culture resource specialist Brandon Bies here in the home of Wayne Spivey, interviewing him on his World War II [00:23] experiences at Fort Hunt [00:25]. And we're going to go ahead and get started for the morning. And I just put in front of Wayne a map of the layout of Fort Hunt that's in the 2000 Historic Resources Study and we were just going to have some conversations about what he remembers about some of the buildings and the layout of the fort on there. So you were saying you remember coming straight on in?

WS: Yes.

INT: And you had mentioned a little bit just now over the phone some of the names like the Sugar Mill [00:52] and that?

WS: Yes, well the existing building there, you thinking about making this a museum?

INT: Right.

WS: I think this [01:00] is it right here is it not?

INT: It --

WS: Or it could be --

INT: We -- the building that we're looking at right now is actually one of the ones over on this side, over here --

WS: Oh, yeah.

INT: -- closer to the entrance, labeled 118 or 119.

WS: The -- that's -- is that the existing building there?

INT: Yes, that's the existing building. As you come in today, you can see that building on the right.

WS: Right. Okay, and then the Creamery [01:32].

INT: That's -- that would have been the Creamery right there.

WS: Oh, well I don't recall it being to the -- in front of the Creamery. I recall it being farther - - the Creamery [01:45] being on the front and the Salt Mine [01:48] or at least, that's what we deemed that mill -- I mean, the Sugar Mill [01:54], is -- and it looks like what you have here is [02:00] "T" -- what is that?

INT: 111?

WS: 111, yeah.

INT: That -- I -- and on our list, which is not necessarily correct, T-111 [02:08] is listed as an officers' quarters.

WS: Well, that could be. That could be. I don't know.

INT: And these ones here closer to the entrance 118 and 119 --

WS: Yes?

INT: -- they're listed as -- one of them as a dwelling and the other one as a supply room.

WS: Oh, that's probably right.

INT: And 118, I believe, is the building that still stands there today, the one that's just listed as a dwelling.

WS: Well, I think it'd be safest to go by what you have here.

INT: Okay.

WS: Rather than my memory.

INT: But the general layout looks familiar in terms of going straight in and --

WS: Yes, it does. It does, indeed.

INT: -- seeing the barracks?

WS: That's right. Especially the barracks. Now, what about these buildings here?

INT: Those, I believe, are also barracks. The ones -- let's check with the ones -- yeah, but those are all listed as [03:00] barracks, T-38, T-39.

WS: [affirmative]

INT: 41 is listed as the firehouse and then --

WS: [affirmative]

INT: -- 42 and 43 are listed as barracks as well.

WS: [affirmative] Yeah.

INT: So this whole area would have been -- now, do you have any recollection which area of the barracks you were in?

WS: To the best of my knowledge, it would be -- it would be these.

INT: These up in this corner over --

WS: [affirmative]

INT: -- okay, so in the numbers five, six, seven, or eight right in there?

WS: Yes [affirmative].

INT: Do you recall -- were there -- they're not shown on this map, but do you recall the latrines? Were they --

WS: Now, they were -- we had a walkway from the barracks down to the latrines. And if my recollection is correct, it was somewhere down in --

INT: In this area right in here?

WS: Yes, right.

INT: Okay, okay. Yeah and, in fact, that's -- we have some other maps [04:00] that show kind of square latrine buildings --

WS: Right.

INT: -- in that area. So that's --

WS: That's right.

INT: Okay.

WS: That's the best -- because I know we had to walk down through that. And is this the -- this is the road -- and was this at that time?

INT: Yeah, that would have been there at that time.

WS: Yeah. Now that makes sense.

INT: Okay, okay. And just -- it might sound a little picky, but --

WS: Yeah.

INT: -- with the latrines, do you remember anything about them? Were they flush toilets? Were they pit toilets or anything?

WS: They -- well, yeah, I think they were flush toilets, and then it had urinals. I can't remember. And I know they had a shower there.

INT: They did have a shower there?

WS: That's right. And men really enjoyed that shower. Some of these newcomers, they -- they must have been in areas where they did not have access to such as that because [05:00] they remained in there about an hour, soaking it up. I just remember that distinctly.

INT: And I assume, was there hot and cold water?

WS: Yes, that's right.

INT: Was there hot showers?

WS: That's right. We had that, and we had times when we had to do latrine duty down there.

We had to make sure that thing was clean. That's right. I definitely remember that --

[laughter]

-- in my earlier days. But that was a much used facility.

INT: And, again, you had mentioned a little bit about the Sugar Mill [05:34] and the Salt Mine [05:35], so what again would your description be of those two buildings? What were they used for?

WS: Well, now, I'm not certain what the Sugar Mill [05:46] was used for in the latter stages.

It's -- I really don't know because I was over there next to the stockade and the evaluation

Quonset [05:56] hut, and I just can't remember [06:00] going back in there very much.

There may have been officers' quarters, or -- maybe it had been used for that purpose.

INT: Okay, and that was the Sugar Mill [06:12]?

WS: That's what -- that's what we called it.

INT: Okay.

WS: One of the officers dubbed it that and it stuck.

INT: And what about the Salt Mine [06:19]?

WS: Well, now the Salt Mine is a stockade.

INT: Is a stockade?

WS: That's where the information came from.

INT: Okay, and can you remember about where your Quonset [06:30] hut was, then, somewhere -- because it may not be shown on this map.

WS: Well, what is that right there?

INT: Those are guard towers.

WS: That's a guard tower? I see.

INT: There were four guard towers in each of the corners there.

WS: Well, I would put it about along right here.

INT: Okay.

WS: We were -- I don't think we were inside this time. This is all stockade material, right?

INT: Exactly, that's the fencing.

WS: And that would be for prisoners [06:57], to have protection with that [07:00] [phonetic].

INT: Right. Yeah, those buildings listed at like T-310 -- it's actually listed as a school, but that may have been some other code information; 307 is listed as a special office for intelligence operations, that right there.

WS: Oh, really?

INT: And then 315 -- 315's listed as a hutment. So I don't know if that's --

WS: That could be ours. That could be ours right there.

INT: Okay, and that would show it located inside --

WS: Yes.

INT: -- the fence there.

WS: Yeah, 62 years later, it's --

INT: No, it's absolutely understandable.

WS: But I knew we were very -- we were in close proximity to the stockade.

INT: And, let's see, looking at some of these other ones, looks like [08:00] these are all guard towers. And that there, again -- in fact, that's also listed as a -- that's a special -- this is listed here, "Special office number 306," right there and, "Special office, editing and

evaluations [08:16]."

WS: Oh, that's it.

INT: So that --

WS: That's it. Yeah. That's -- editing and evaluations. That's ours.

INT: That was you? Okay, so that's --

WS: Yes.

INT: -- listed as 306 right there inside the entrance.

WS: Yeah, yeah, that's the evaluation center [08:32].

INT: Okay.

WS: That was where we were.

INT: Now -- so you -- so do you recall then making the trip down this? Does this path seem right --

WS: Absolutely. Yeah.

INT: -- going from the barracks down into there?

WS: We would double time oftentimes. Does it show the chow hall over there?

INT: Yeah, the mess hall is shown as being up here somewhere. Let me --

WS: That could be. Yeah.

INT: T-35 [09:00].

WS: There we go. Right there.

INT: Yes, exactly, T-35. And does that sound familiar to you there?

WS: Yeah, it does. That looks -- that looks good, yes.

INT: In between all the barracks there?

WS: [affirmative] That's right. We were very close to the barracks and a good ways from

where we were working.

INT: Now, what about the PX [09:21]? Do you remember where that was?

WS: Now, that's what I was trying to think of. It was in this vicinity. It was below -- what's this building?

INT: That's the mess hall there.

WS: The mess hall?

INT: Yeah, that's the mess hall.

WS: I think it was down in this area in here. What's T-40 there?

INT: I'm not sure, but that might be 46.

WS: 46, yes.

INT: Oh, you know what? You are right on the money. T-46, post exchange.

WS: That's it. That is it [10:00]. Yes, I've been down there. A lot of fellows spent a lot of time down there.

INT: Now, so it seems like you mostly would have spent your time over here near the barracks, the mess hall.

WS: That's right.

INT: Did you venture over into this area much at all, closer to where I mentioned, where the Creamery [10:17] was?

WS: No, the only time we were in this area was when we were out in the field, playing ball or in close order drill, or things of that nature, where the -- I'm not sure where the hell -- retreat where the flag was. [unintelligible] could have been a little bit there [phonetic] on the corner of the --

INT: Of the parade ground?

WS: Yeah.

INT: Okay.

WS: Now, the headquarters for the -- our section, where the captain was and so forth, it was somewhere up in here.

INT: Just to the north of the parade ground?

WS: Yes.

INT: Okay [11:00].

WS: Yes, that's right. Well, what's T -- is that 106?

INT: I believe it's 106. That's the -- that's listed as a carpenter shop.

WS: Carpenter? I don't remember a carpenter shop.

INT: And then the officers' quarters is listed as 107 --

WS: Yeah.

INT: -- as is 109. And then 110, right, that little building is listed as the officers' latrine. Right next to that, this little building here, 103, that's an office. 102 and 103 are listed as offices. So I don't know if those could have been --

WS: Well, now that -- if they had offices, that could be -- well, whatever these top -- the first sergeant and the company commander held forth.

INT: Now, do you recall -- this right here is listed as the swimming pool [12:00]. Do you --

WS: I don't recall a swimming pool.

INT: No? Okay.

WS: I -- if there were a swimming pool there, I don't believe I ever got to swim in it.

[laughter]

That's for sure.

INT: And so do you have any recollections -- we were talking about the main compound for prisoners [12:18] down here --

WS: Yes.

INT: -- in what would be the southwest corner. This one here closer to one of the gun batteries, do you have any recollection of that one there?

WS: As a stockade?

INT: As the stockade used for prisoners [12:32]?

WS: I can't recall.

INT: Okay.

WS: I can't recall what it was. It was hidden away where I couldn't see it.

INT: What was it like in the area surrounding the stockade that you were familiar with?

WS: Woods, there was a lot of woods around.

INT: Okay.

WS: It was -- if you'll notice in that picture there, with my group there. It was a rather shady area.

INT: Yes, yeah, you can see that.

WS: There were trees around [13:00]. We just stepped outside. And I wish I had a better recollection, but that's just right outside of my hut.

INT: Okay.

WS: Yeah, where that picture was taken.

INT: And could you see this stockade area from the barracks and the mess hall?

WS: Yes, yes.

INT: You could say it was open on one side, but --

WS: Yes, yes.

INT: -- there were trees all around the back?

WS: Yes, yeah.

INT: Okay, okay. Since we're talking about pictures right now, what I might do is flip through here and show you some of the pictures. And, again, these are rather poor photocopies that we have. But they're better than nothing [14:00]. That's the photograph that was -- that's a poorer copy of the photograph that was in the Washington Post article that I showed you --

WS: Yes.

INT: -- with the fence and the guard tower.

WS: Yeah.

INT: And that's listed as enclosure A, which most likely would have been the one that you would have been at, with the guard towers and the woods around the background.

WS: Yes [affirmative].

INT: This photograph, then -- and again, it's poor quality -- is enclosure B which they state was built in 1944 and had a central guard tower in the middle and was kind of shaped like a cross.

WS: Yeah, it could be. I -- memory being what it is --

INT: Oh, absolutely. That's a photograph of one of those -- the windowless busses.

WS: Yes.

INT: Do you recall [15:00] those?

WS: Very vaguely if at all. What can I say? I don't remember much about the transportation of PWs into and out of the fort.

INT: Okay. That's a photograph of what one of the typical rooms would have looked like for a prisoner [15:24]. So you may or may not have --

WS: Well, see, I was never in there. So I could not comment on that.

INT: Okay. And that's listed as the chief monitor control board for enclosure A. So, again, this would have been for the monitors.

WS: Yeah, that's right.

INT: And did you -- do you recalled ever going into where the room monitors were and -- with all the headphones and --

WS: No, no.

INT: Okay.

WS: No, I never got in there [16:00].

INT: That's listed as the interior of administration building, enclosure A, with a series of typewriters.

WS: That looks similar to the way it looks inside of our evaluation center [16:16].

INT: And that may be the inside of the building. Again, I apologize for the quality.

WS: Yeah, it's hard to say.

INT: Sure.

WS: I wish we had taken pictures, but I know up at the end of the Quonset [16:34] hut was Major Szlapka [16:39] and his desk, and next to it was Sergeant Sharp [16:42] because they worked very closely together. And then on the left was Harris and a little farther down was Cook [16:53] and a little farther down from that was the desk of Ralph Jackson [16:57].

INT: Okay [17:00], and what about your desk?

WS: And my desk was somewhere in -- somewhere like over here. It looks like that might be it right there.

INT: Really?

WS: Yeah.

INT: And were there typewriters at all the desks?

WS: Yes, yes. We had typewriters. We used them because we had to type all that -- all that -- all those interrogations --

INT: What I --

WS: -- and these things.

INT: What I'll try to do then is I'll try to get a better quality copy of this photograph --

WS: Yes.

INT: -- and email it to you. And we'll talk about that over email because you might be able to tell us in more detail from that.

WS: Yeah, I wish I could say for certain.

INT: Well, that's okay.

WS: I don't recall many places that were equipped with typewriters like that. We had a battery of typewriters.

INT: And so, again, what would you use the typewriters for? For [18:00] --

WS: For typing interrogations, which were more often than not in German.

INT: Okay.

WS: And that's where we learned a lot of these other words, copied from those. And we would type the extracts as processed to us from Major Szlapka [18:22]. And those consisted of the intelligence that we had.

INT: Okay.

WS: And then there were sketches, and so forth, drawn by some of the prisoners [18:37]. And they were stored in this same room. Sergeant Cook [18:44] -- oh, I forgot to mention Sergeant Cook. He was up in the upper left-hand corner of our Quonset [18:53] hut, to the best of my knowledge. I was more towards the front of the Quonset hut as you come in [19:00].

INT: Okay.

WS: My desk was right there towards him. I think it was the first one you came to --

INT: Okay.

WS: -- as you came in to it. My -- like I said, my memory, after 60 some odd years, is not as sharp as it ought to be. But that's my recollection.

INT: Okay, great.

WS: That's where I was.

INT: Great. Let me take that out of your way for right now --

WS: Okay.

INT: -- and I'll give that to you when we're all -- when we're all done. And I want to show you a few other things here, then, since we're on to talking about some of the documents

[19:36].

WS: Right.

INT: This is just a copy [20:00]. This is no one in particular, but this is just a copy of what a typical file looks like at the National Archives [20:08] that we've been pulling. And you can see it's not terribly lengthy in this case.

WS: Of the person over there?

INT: But -- for -- yeah, this -- no, this would have -- well, for a prisoner [20:20].

WS: Oh, a prisoner?

INT: Yeah, this is a German [20:21] prisoner [20:22] listed as Franz Rook [phonetic].

WS: Oh, I see.

INT: And so this is just a typical - - I wasn't sure if you wanted to flip through that to see if some of the paperwork in there looked familiar or whatnot. And, again, that's just his biographical information from that first sheet.

WS: I don't think I had access to that.

INT: Okay.

WS: I just don't believe I ever saw that. Now, this interrogation report [21:00] -- I'm not certain that we received such detailed information as to the background of the prisoners [21:07].

INT: Okay.

WS: As I say, my recollection is that we were more concerned of what came out of the prisoner [21:15], what the prisoners divulged in each interrogation. Each interrogation has contents and is [unintelligible] and so forth. That's the best I can do. As far as it -- I - - and some of this may have passed through that, as to the description and background of other people. But I can't say for certain that we saw.

INT: Okay.

WS: So that's very interesting. Do you have any more?

INT: This is the only prisoner [21:51]. I just brought one file --

WS: Just one file.

INT: -- because it was kind of a typical one. And this is where it gets [22:00] into more

technical information here.

WS: Yes. Yeah. Well, that may have come through Major Szlapka [22:13]. He would have seen that. I just don't -- can't be certain. But if he did [inaudible] by a prisoner [22:24] there.

INT: And I've heard --

WS: He divulged a lot of good stuff. He certainly did. Oh, Colonel Parker [22:31] --

INT: Okay.

WS: -- he was with the OSS [22:34].

INT: Oh, really?

WS: He was the one that came down and carried on animated conversations with Major Szlapka [22:40].

INT: Right, okay.

WS: Yes, yes, I'm almost certain of that, that he was pretty --

INT: And does that name mean anything to you?

WS: No.

INT: Youkstetter?

WS: No.

INT: Okay [23:00].

WS: No. But now that's very interesting about Parker [23:06] because he periodically came in to review the files that were in our office. Wait a minute.

INT: Now, this -- these are the room and -- the room listening reports that the monitors would listen in on --

WS: Yes.

INT: -- and take notes on conversations and whatnot.

WS: Oh, yeah.

INT: Do you ever remember getting those?

WS: No.

INT: No? Okay.

WS: No, no. That was secret and we didn't have it. This is some of the information he [24:00] divulged here on this?

INT: Yeah, this is one of those room -- in this case, two prisoners [24:07], one -- this gentleman, Rolfe [24:09] [phonetic] and the other one named Ringwald [24:10] [phonetic] were in a room.

WS: Yeah.

INT: And then there was a monitor listening in on the conversation --

WS: Right.

INT: -- and he was taking notes on the conversation.

WS: Oh, yeah. Well, I remember --

INT: These are the notes.

WS: -- I remember in some recordings that they had from -- that they did take from the POWs [24:33], but as to the information divulged, I just can't recall it.

INT: Sure, sure.

WS: But -- and that's monitored by --

INT: It looks like Corporal [Alexis] Schidlovsky [24:52].

WS: Schidlovsky, yeah, I didn't know him. But that's good. Now [25:00] that [unintelligible] in May of '45. I'm certainly there then. But, like I say, this may be the stuff we didn't

get.

INT: Okay, okay. So do you remember, then, what exactly you would have gotten? Would it have been information that was filled out by the interrogators from what they had learned in their interrogations? Was it just information that the prisoners [25:44] had --

WS: Well, it seems to me that a lot of the information was in German [25:51]. And it certainly -- divulged [26:00] certain information that was considered worthy by Major Szlapka [26:06] and so forth. So I -- the -- as far as listening, I remember records being played of their conversations sometimes.

INT: Okay.

WS: But we got the information down here. And sometimes they translated it to English, and we would type it from that.

INT: Okay.

WS: I wish I could be more specific --

INT: Oh, that's fine.

WS: -- about that, but it's so [27:00] vague, just to the specifics of how it all came to be. The best I can do is interrogation excerpts and extracts from that. And we kept -- we kept all these interrogations in a brown clip-type binder --

INT: Okay.

WS: -- which [unintelligible], we start [unintelligible] to the other and they were numbered and so forth --

INT: Right.

WS: -- so that you could find anything you wanted to.

INT: And so were they numbered -- they were numbered by prisoner [27:38] --

WS: No, no.

INT: -- or by subject?

WS: By the interrogation number where we received it.

INT: Okay.

WS: In order, I think, that we received it.

INT: Okay, and in fact, I want to just flip on this document [27:55] to see if this is what we're speaking about [28:00]. Would report on interrogation number 5198 -- would it -- do you know if it would be something like that, or would it be this number down here, 3WG-1260, or would it be neither of them?

WS: Yeah, I don't think it would be neither. Like I said, I wish I could say more --

INT: Oh, that's fine.

WS: -- because it looks -- well, it looks for me -- I don't remember seeing detailed information on the background of the prisoners [28:38], like I say. And this seems to be that.

INT: Okay.

WS: That -- what you've got here is the secret information of [unintelligible], the identity of -- the PWs [28:50] background, and also what he may have divulged. That's the best I can make of it [29:00].

INT: Do you remember -- when you we were discharged, do you remember, were -- was all of this information still at Fort Hunt [29:12] or had some of it been --

WS: As far as I know -- as far as I know, it was still there.

INT: Okay, so you're not sure what its ultimate fate was of all this technical information?

WS: I have no idea --

INT: Okay.

WS: -- because my [unintelligible] once I was discharged, I wasn't technically involved.

INT: Here's another document I wanted to show you. And I had mentioned to you yesterday in passing that the Army Center of Military History [29:57] only had about six pages of documents [30:00]. And this is something that if you want to take your time for a few minutes to read through, that's just fine. We're in no rush. This is a document from April of 1946. So it's after you would have -- it's after you would have gone, but it's about this -- a lot of this documentation and survey of G2 interrogation records and what they are. So I was curious if you wanted to read through any of this to see if any of that rang any bells in your head. But take your time.

WS: Yeah. Right, let's see. Now, this is what they were working on at the time this was written. So that's exactly --

INT: Exactly.

WS: -- three persons [unintelligible] and so forth [31:00]. Well, now that -- see, it says [inaudible] going out of [inaudible], so there's another than P.O. Box 1142 [31:17] [inaudible], which was better than what we had.

INT: Right.

WS: That's from [inaudible]. The way it says [inaudible] 1142 [31:37] [unintelligible] Alabama. Maps such as this -- I remember seeing map sketches, and detailed maps of some of some of these things. I remember seeing those --

INT: Okay.

WS: -- [reading] and detailed maps of most European countries, I remember seeing that. And some of this information from the books about alphabetical index about electrical products and German [32:45] electrical instruments. And so we may have had that on

our course hearing [phonetic]. [unintelligible] was of course a major information gathering, from interrogation [phonetic]. 1142 [33:00] seen the [unintelligible]. On IR reports, I thought ours was IR reports, that -- now, that's who I am.

INT: Okay, the IR reports?

WS: Yeah, IR reports, yeah, [reading] for employees, information volunteered by POWs [33:22]. That's this exactly [phonetic].

INT: Okay.

WS: [reading] IR and -- on the same except on a few accomplishments [phonetic].

INT: And it says right here at the top of that, "The following major reports on interrogation is available at the CPM branch of MIS [33:38] in the Pentagon [33:39]." So it makes it sound like at this point in '46, would you interpret that as --

WS: As it being moved from 1142 [33:49].

INT: Okay.

WS: If they had it up there.

INT: Okay.

WS: And that's just -- I want to answer, but I don't know.

INT: Sure.

WS: But to the best of my knowledge -- but when you talk about [34:00] IR reports, that's --

INT: That rings a bell?

WS: That does ring a bell, exactly. [reading] [unintelligible] at -- that's very significant. And I'll give you my A [phonetic] reports here, I took of a German [34:25] here. That [unintelligible], that's nothing. No, I remember that. I see this was done in '46?

INT: Yeah, and then all that dates through 1946. And then this is actually a separate document

that is I believe a request [35:00] from the Army [35:04] to the CIA [35:05].

Specifically, it says, "It is understood that the files of the foreign document branch, CIA [35:12], contains some material on the subject of prisoner [35:14] of war interrogation methods and procedures in the Russian [35:17] Army. Request that any material available to CIA [35:21] on this subject be furnished to the Intelligence Division on two week's loan to assist in the aforementioned study." So this is a document that took -- this looks like it's from 1948 actually.

WS: Ah, I see.

INT: And then that final -- that's a document from 1950.

WS: I see. Well that is beyond me there.

INT: So that's everything that's there. So that's all that they had there at the Army Center for Military History [35:53]. But since it related to the records, I wanted to run it by you.

WS: I'm convinced from what we've seen here [36:00] that Fort Hunt [36:01] had a viable impact on intelligence, what they were able to obtain. It was valuable. And I wish I could say [unintelligible] involved, but I was.

INT: But you certainly were very well involved. And you were the go-between between the interrogations, it sounds, and the Pentagon [36:28]. They were -- I -- well, let me ask that, actually. Would you file the information there and just make it available to the officer as you went, or were you actively sending records to the Pentagon [36:42]?

WS: No, I was not actively sending them there. Somebody else sat in on the evaluation center [36:46] took care of seeing that it got into the appropriate hands.

INT: Okay, so --

WS: That's the best I can do.

INT: So the information was leaving the camp somehow.

WS: Yeah, absolutely.

INT: It just wasn't through you?

WS: Absolutely [37:00.

INT: Okay.

WS: Yes.

INT: Okay. Did the role of the evaluation section [37:08] ever change or was your job essentially -- once you were in the evaluation section, did you pretty much do the same job for those two or three years?

WS: That's it.

INT: Okay.

WS: As far as I can recall, that was the job I was doing. And I sometimes had slack time, I'd let my file build up so I could keep busy because they don't like slack time. But the major got after me. He says, "I want this done more promptly." So I was just doing it so I had plenty to do.

[laughter]

INT: And did you notice any change in the actual interrogations or the information? And the reason I ask that is, was there one type of prisoner [37:59] that was there at 1142 [38:00] at the beginning? And then did it shift to different types or prisoners at the end, in terms of either political or scientific researchers?

WS: I really couldn't comment. I just really don't know.

INT: Do you remember that there were large numbers of scientists there at the end of the war? I mean, what -- did it seem to you that there were more soldiers or more scientists?

WS: More soldiers is my observation. I may be wrong, but now they -- I remember one long report, that what we got from a POW [38:46] by the name of A-R-N-D-T, Arndt [38:51], something like that. And it was a long dissertation covering several pages [39:00] and what he was doing was outlining the difficulties that faced the United States [39:06] in dealing with Russia [39:08] and the inevitable results of such confrontation with Russia [39:18]. And I noticed he's pointing out, "Russia's going to be a big problem for you." And it was a long -- and to me, it seemed like it was an in-depth, very intelligent analysis of the situation that existed between the United States [39:39] and Russia [39:41] at that time. And it seemed to me -- I ran across that name later on as some high intellectual in Europe [39:56] or Germany [39:58] or such as that, maybe [phonetic] [40:00]. But that's my impression because I thought it was a very profound article or dissertation, that they would take the trouble to send it through the evaluation center [40:15]. Now, that's just one particular one that I recall towards the end of the hostility.

INT: It was towards the end? Okay.

WS: Yes, right.

INT: Okay, and that was something that he had written while he was at Fort Hunt [40:33]?

WS: Yes, yes.

INT: Okay.

WS: While he was still a POW [40:37] there.

INT: Okay. Do you remember roughly how many reports from -- you would handle on a given day? What I'm trying to -- would it vary? Would there be days where you'd go through lots of shorter reports and then other days with longer [41:00] reports? Or was there a set number for each day?

WS: No, there was no set number. We just did them as they were presented to us by Major Szlapka [41:14] because he was in control of them.

INT: Okay.

WS: He and Sergeant Sharp [41:22], they would work together on this thing. They would present to us what we needed to do, and we would do it.

INT: Okay.

WS: And that was it.

INT: Okay.

WS: As far -- it varied. Sometimes we would have a pretty heavy load, and other times it would be pretty light, and I wasn't getting much. But that's my recollection.

INT: Whose job was it, if anyone, to raise a flag and say, "Hey, this looks really important?" Would that have [42:00] already been raised before it got to you or if you saw something important would you go tell Major Szlapka [42:06]?

WS: No. No, I wouldn't do that. If -- it usually got to us -- well, that particular one I was talking about, about the Russian [42:16] interrogator. His information looked very similar to atomic [42:22] diagrams and such as that. It seemed to me that was the next day that the alarm bell started sounding. And we had to classify that immediately as top secret and get it out of there. And I just remember the urgency of that, that particular report.

INT: Do any other -- you mentioned a few right now with that Russian [42:53] intelligence report and with the one report written by the Arndt [42:58] individual.

WS: Yes.

INT: Did [43:00] any other prisoners [43:01] or any other specifics stick out in your mind

about specific reports that you received?

WS: I can't recall --

INT: Okay.

WS: -- if it's like that [phonetic].

INT: Okay, and did you have any information in your position on how long the prisoners [43:20] were staying there for?

WS: No.

INT: Okay.

WS: No, they were out soon and I didn't know when they left.

INT: Okay. Right now, while we -- since we talked yesterday about your first days there at Fort Hunt [43:39], I'll go now to a little bit -- what do you remember about hearing that the war had ended?

WS: Well, it was just usually the news that we got on the radio. That was the progress of the war. And such as that, we didn't have any -- as far as I know [44:00], we had no special intelligence that the war was coming to an end. It just -- a news report is news of the progress of the American [44:11] Army [44:11] and how they [unintelligible] Germany [44:14] and the devastation there, how the Russians [44:16] on the other side had come in and the devastation there and the uselessness of resistance [44:23] by the Germans. That was pretty evident to us. And I can't recall any special intelligence as to that. It may have been, but I may have missed it.

INT: So did you have the -- did you have the sense that the war in Europe [44:44] was winding down?

WS: Oh, yes, yes. Absolutely.

INT: Okay, and when the war in Europe [44:51] ended, was there a party or anything like that?

WS: Well, yeah, there was great celebration [45:00].

INT: How did you feel, though, about the fact that there was still a war against Japan [45:07] going on?

WS: Well, I felt that it was going to be a long, arduous campaign that was going to be very expensive in lives. And as -- I felt like every able bodied soldier was going to have to make a contribution to that. I just didn't feel that I was going to be where I was at that time if we got fully involved with a new invasion of Japan [45:46]. I feared for every able bodied man because I had been reading so much about this -- the manpower scarcity because the European [46:00] commanders were complaining constantly that they needed more men. And that's my fear about it, and that's one reasons I wanted Evelyn [46:13] to go home because I didn't know how long I would be there or if they would transfer me out into somewhere different.

INT: Right. Did you ever get any sense that there would be Japanese [46:30] prisoners [46:30] being brought to Fort Hunt [46:32]?

WS: Well, I saw the Japanese interrogators. They were in the barracks with some of us. And that --

INT: Do you remember when they started arriving?

WS: Late in the war. Yes, it was very late into the war. And they were the most Americanized people you could run into [47:00]. They were all American [47:02] boys. There was no trace of an accent in their language. They had been raised here in the United States [47:14], in America [47:15] like you and I.

INT: And did you get everybody -- did you get along with them? Did you do anything with

them?

WS: No, no, no. They were a pretty special group and I noticed they were included in our final victory party for the noncoms. They were there for that. And as far as fraternization with them, they -- if they were in the barracks, the normal contacts would be there, the kidding and shoving and stuff such as that between soldiers. That's the best I know about the Japanese [47:54].

INT: Do you recall if there were actually any Japanese [47:59] prisoners [48:00] who made it through?

WS: No. I can't recall that.

INT: Okay.

WS: But there must have been or else these guys wouldn't have been there.

INT: So did you think that Fort Hunt [48:17] was going to continue in its role at -- the same role it had been with the war in Japan [48:25]? Did you have any sense if it was going to keep -- or if it was going to start to change its operations or shut down because the war in Europe [48:34] was over?

WS: Well, I just didn't know. There was a good possibility that it would continue there at Fort Hunt [48:40] because they were already getting -- gathering information on the Russians [48:47]. And I'm sure that they would have had the same -- made the same efforts against the Japanese [48:56].

INT: Do you remember any other [49:00] -- any Russian [49:01] prisoners or any Italian [49:04] prisoners [49:04]?

WS: No, they were there at the early part of the war.

INT: Okay.

WS: That's right. And I wondered just what happened to the Italian [49:12] interrogators after it was surrendered.

INT: Right.

WS: I forget which year they surrendered, but of course it was before the war, wasn't it [phonetic]?

INT: [affirmative]

WS: And one must need to interrogate [phonetic] the Italian [49:32] prisoners [49:32]. But the earliest ones we had there I think were Italian.

INT: And so were there Italian interrogators?

WS: Yes, I'm sure there were. These boys, they were eloquent in Italian [49:46]. And so I feel they were used in that capacity.

INT: [50:00] So then you found out that the whole war was over with the atomic bomb [50:06] dropped in Japan [50:07]. What was your reaction to finding out that there was this atomic bomb that had been dropped on the Japanese [50:14]?

WS: I was very thankful. I knew that it saved so many lives because there was no doubt about the toll that it would take in American [50:29] lives to invade Japan [50:31]. That was my only observation, a feeling, a feeling of relief that we had finally ended the war, even though we regretted that it took such a toll on civilians. But the Japanese [50:52] showed such resistance in Okinawa [50:56]. And so it was an indication of [51:00] what faced the American [51:02] forces once they tried to invade Japan [51:06], their homeland. Okinawa was as close to their homeland as we got. And so I felt like it would be a terrible thing if we had to invade. And it was a relief and joy that the war had ended and that Truman [51:31] who had no other recourse than to do what he made the decision as

he did.

INT: Did -- when you heard that the bomb had been dropped, did you immediately think, "Oh, the war's going to end. The war is over"? Or did you -- were you not sure until the actual VJ Day [51:52]?

WS: I was not sure when they had dropped the first one in Nagasaki [51:56], I think. And I think that there were two [52:00] explosions to persuade them that it was hopeless. And so --

INT: Did you ever have any idea from your experiences in the evaluation section [52:16] that there was such a thing as an atomic bomb [52:20]?

WS: [negative]

INT: Okay.

WS: None. None whatsoever.

INT: Okay.

WS: It was -- that was the best kept secret in the whole war.

INT: And so that one paperwork that you've referenced about -- with atomic symbols and things, did you not realize until after the war what that might have been?

WS: That's it.

INT: Okay.

WS: That's when I put two and two together.

INT: Got you. Okay. And so you were at Fort Hunt [52:51]. Of course, the war ended in August, September of '45, the war was over. And you were there for a few more months at that point [53:00]?

WS: Yes.

INT: And how did you find out that you were going to be mustered out? Did you just find out --

WS: Well, by the -- by the -- you got a certain number of points for the time of your service. And that I felt was going to make my discharge more imminent than it would be for those who came in later and had less points. Of course, the prize was to those who had been overseas. They didn't -- they got the most points and then naturally deserved it more so. My only reason for being able to retire when I was was simply my longevity in the service, and that was it.

INT: Were you ever asked to stay in the military?

WS: Not that I recall, as I recall [54:00]. But I know my friend, Arthur Wilson [54:04], he says, "I'm going to stay." He says, "I want to stay in the Army [54:08]." And he even asked me. He said, "Why don't you stay also?" I was slightly tempted, but by that time, the demands that the military made on you, and the control that they had over your life, I was -- I wanted to get out of that. I don't want other people having that control over my life. And that's what made my determination to get out and enjoy civilian life and whatever would be [phonetic] involved.

INT: So when you found out you were being mustered out, was it all of a sudden, "Okay, tomorrow you're being mustered out [55:00]," or did you have some advanced notice?

WS: No, it took a while before I -- we got the word that our time had come. I got a copy of our discharge.

INT: Right. And so there were a group of you all on one day?

WS: Yes, that's right. I was -- there were about three or four of us that were discharged at the same time at Fort Belvoir [55:27].

INT: Okay.

WS: And their names are on that discharge that I have. Schenk [55:34] was one, [William] Chester [55:35] was another I think. And I can't remember if there was anybody else, but those two I remember.

INT: Okay.

WS: I remember [laughs] because that night, after we had gone through the process, I was bored that week, so I learned how to [unintelligible]. They offered me, "Do you want to learn to make this [phonetic]?" I said, "Yeah [56:00]." And I slept way longer that night [phonetic].

[laughter]

And the next day I think we went to the center -- to Union Station [56:12] together and then there we split. And that's the last I heard of them and the last they heard of me because I was on my way home.

INT: On your way home. That's right.

WS: But let me tell you, too, about that. This may be out of order or something, but I was thinking this morning about the attitude that existed during wartime, when the war -- it was a unique time. I don't think this will ever be replicated in the United States [56:45] because at that -- during that war, this nation was a family. It was not a disorganized family; it was a united family in the cause [57:00] of defeating the enemy. On my trips on furloughs and everything, when I rode the trains, it was an experience because trains were always full. People would get on and they didn't have a seat and they'd take their suitcase and sit down and talk to you about what they were doing, about how they might have lost a family member, or how they were going to visit a family member, about their

family situation. And I remember one trip home, some fellow got up and they sort of had a pep rally there for the people that were -- this was towards the close of the war, but I just -- I was impressed by the unity of the people. There wasn't any distinction [58:00]. Everybody was in this together. And I just think that's what marked our generation during that time, is the devotion to the cause of this country. And it just -- it still stirs me.

INT: It was an amazing time.

WS: Yeah.

INT: Yeah, it was an amazing time where everyone's contribution was important to what was going on.

WS: That's right.

INT: So do you want to take a break for a second?

WS: Oh, well, yeah, we can take a little one.

[audio break]

INT: So one of the -- the last things I wanted to ask you was when you left Fort Hunt [58:51] or were leaving Fort Hunt, what did they tell you, if anything, about the level of secrecy about what you had just done?

WS: They said, "Just [59:00] keep quiet about what went on here. It's nobody's business. You just don't want to talk about it anymore because this is too important. Just keep quiet. Just keep your mouth shut." That was what they taught. Don't elaborate on what you did during the war. That was the instruction I remember.

INT: And obviously when you were there, it was made very clear that you were to never refer to anything other than 1142 [59:33]?

WS: Absolutely. You were to keep your mouth shut. When you walked away from that post,

you just kept your mouth shut about where you were or what you were doing. That was every [unintelligible].

INT: And so after the war, you got back. You were discharged in December of '45 and if you want to end the last few minutes of tape that we have -- if you [01:00:00] just want to talk a little bit about what you ended up doing after the war and your career after the war.

WS: Yeah, well, I got home and my daughter had been born on the 2nd of December. And so when I got home, my wife had just -- she had had a difficult time there. She had got an infection, and had it not been for penicillin, we might have lost her. And so I didn't know about that till I was met at the terminal station by her parents. And they divulged to me that she had been quite sick, but she was home now. And so when I got home, they had that baby in that basinet. And I was tired and -- but we had a -- we had a baby there that we had to take care of. And Evelyn [01:01:00] was unable to nurse her because of the infection in her breasts, and so we had a formula that was given to us by the doctor. It wasn't just formula [phonetic], it was like pouring water in a balloon. You'd put it in here, put it over your shoulder, bloop [phonetic], there it is. And I was so tired, we -- in that day, when I laid my head on a pillow, I was dead within just a few seconds. I mean, I slept hard. But my wife, she let me know that I was needed [laughs]. And she may have some comments to me about how hard it was to get me up. But I had my share of work and joys because those first days there, you'd put -- you'd get her -- you'd get her quiet and she'd be real quiet and she's sleeping [01:02:00] and she's laying in that bassinet and she'd be on her stomach. And then you'd here this bump, bump and she was moving up towards the head of her bassinet. And then, oh, she'd hit her head and [phonetic], wow, man it started all over again. She was awake. And that was pretty well when you

first got home. So that's when I got home. I knew I had to have a job because I didn't have that much except the clothes on my back. The Army [01:02:37] didn't -- they didn't let us keep our uniforms. We had to turn them in.

INT: Really? Everything? Wow.

WS: Yes, that's right. And so I -- we would head over to live with her folks. And living with in-laws is not the best remedy. I would advise anybody not to do it. But we [01:03:00] had to get along and they were very supportive and helpful to us, especially her mother and her grandmother, in taking care of Joyce. And then I got a job with the city travel freightliner. I walked in and this fellow here, he had a bummed up leg and he needed somebody to do the office work there. And so I worked with him there. He wanted me to stay. And, incidentally, he was, one time, interested in buying that property across the street from me. And I -- well, it was just a vacant lot. And he looked at it. He was [unintelligible] buying. Now, I don't know what discouraged him, but he didn't buy it. But, anyway, I worked for him and then my wife had a cousin who was a supervisor of [01:04:00] state circulation of the Atlanta [01:04:04] constitution. And he gave me a job there in their [unintelligible] department. So I worked there until May of 1947 when I was -- when I went to work for Ford. And from then on, my life consisted of working for Ford [01:04:28].

INT: And why did -- and, real briefly, what did you do with Ford?

WS: Well, I started out as a tele-draft [phonetic] operator. My friend George Jackson [01:04:35], the same fellow I saw wearing a uniform that influence me to follow suit, I mean, he -- well, he was working for Ford [01:04:52]. In fact, we had gotten together at Ford one day -- one evening, and go right to [unintelligible]. Well, look at the [01:05:00]

building of the existing Ford center. And I didn't know I was going to work there, but a few days later he called me and said, "We need somebody in the office. Would you like to work for Ford?" And I figured that Ford [01:05:17] would pay me a lot better than I was being paid at the constitution. Well, my work at the constitution was interesting, but simply because it was in the old constitution building and I can -- usually, I would see the prominent people, writers like Harold --

[End of Tape 2A]

[Beginning of Tape 2B]

INT: Okay, today is Thursday, August 31st, 2006. This is Brandon Bies, culture resource specialist with the National Park Service here at the home of Wayne and Evelyn Spivey [00:17] in Marietta, Georgia. It's about noon and we're going to talk right now largely to Evelyn [00:25], Wayne's wife, about what she remembers about Wayne's experiences at P.O. Box 1142 [00:31]. So I guess to start off -- Evelyn, what do you remember about meeting Wayne and when was that and do you want to tell that story a little bit?

EVELYN SPIVEY: Let's see. Well, this was in May of '41. My parents went to a Baptist church in downtown Atlanta [00:53] and I went to the church in the neighborhood where we lived. And at that time [01:00], Baptist churches would have revivals which would last one week or two weeks. So my grandmother and -- my daddy's mother and myself, we went to this church at Central Baptist across the street from the state capital and the city hall in Atlanta [01:17]. And my grandmother and I were sitting there in the auditorium in the church building and we -- I saw this young man come down the aisle. And I looked at grandmother -- my grandmother. I said, "Granny, I wonder who he is."
[laughter]

Then I saw him in the choir where my mama and daddy were singing. And so faith got us together by the preacher's daughter, Reverend Megs, Carl Megs [01:48], introduced his daughter, Jane, who was a young teenager. And I was a little older than she was. But she introduced us together there in the [02:00] sanctuary of the church.

WS: No, it wasn't the sanctuary. It was on the outside.

ES: On the outside?

WS: I was wondering around with the boys.

ES: [affirmative] It was on the outside there. But, anyhow, we met and I guess he must have asked for a date or something like that.

WS: No, not exactly. No, you invited me to go to your graduation.

ES: The graduation, that's right.

WS: You told me you were going to graduate [unintelligible] from high school.

ES: Yeah, yeah.

INT: And so how old were you at this time?

ES: I was 17.

INT: And Wayne, how old were you then?

WS: I was 21.

ES: 21.

INT: Okay.

ES: But he didn't come to the graduation because he knew a couple that went to school with him in Atlanta [02:40] commercial high and I looked around for him and I hadn't seen him. So my best girlfriend, Tommie [phonetic] and her husband at that time was George, they were married, and we went to the Dairy Queen which was an ice cream place in

Atlanta [03:00]. We got an ice cream. Then they took me home, but I got back into [unintelligible] Central Baptist again. Or did you call me?

WS: Well, you heard me say that I kicked myself many, many times for thinking that she was not serious when she invited me to her graduation. I don't want to give [unintelligible] graduation. But no -- and then we started -- I tell you what was most memorable. On the 4th of July, 1941, we had had a couple of dates before that, but she invited me to her home on Forrest Place in Cold Park [phonetic] which was somewhere in Atlanta [03:48]. It was a beautiful day. I had a brand new plumb-peach suit [phonetic] and [unintelligible] was very light, so [04:00] I ordered a street car downtown and then I transferred to the river line, and that's when it took me to her house. I -- it was a beautiful, beautiful 4th of July day. And I walked down those tree lines to the [unintelligible] and the house was sitting up on the hill there. And I knocked on the door, and her mother came to the door. She was a very sweet lady, and she was just greeting me. And then this gorgeous girl walked up and boy, oh boy, oh boy [laughs]. And we had a delicious dinner there. They fixed me a delicious dinner, and we had a great time. They had a little screened-in porch there. We sat down on the -- what was it called, that swinging part?

ES: The glider.

WS: Glider -- and talked and we just had a good time. I could tell [05:00] that she liked me and I knew I liked her. And so that evening, I think we got on a street car and went downtown and I went to the Fox Theater and saw a movie. And then I took her -- brought her back home. And I went home and you can pick it up from there.

ES: Well, I can't remember too much on the stage.

WS: Well, we would meet most often in church.

ES: Yes.

WS: And at that time, I think I was the main character --

ES: Right, right.

WS: -- but there may have been others later on, but at that time, I was. And so we dated one another, and we went to shows together, and we went on picnics [06:00]. Sometimes -- do you remember your class, the one time I had [unintelligible] and we went to that. And we would drive together and I kept borrowing my brother's car. I didn't have a car. And one time it stalled --

ES: Wasn't it a Mercury?

WS: The Mercury, yeah, and one time we had to -- it stalled and she and I got out and pushed it. And got around the edge of her, back from the yard was the -- her house. There was cockleburs [laughs]. She had a lot of cockleburs on her dress or something, and people was kidding us about that.

[laughter]

[unintelligible]

ES: Didn't we go to the football game or baseball game?

WS: Yes.

ES: [inaudible]

WS: We would watch the football team football games [07:00], didn't we?

ES: Something like that --

WS: Yes.

ES: -- or was it [unintelligible]?

WS: Yeah, it was the football [unintelligible], the [unintelligible] park across from that.

ES: Where the Crackers played.

WS: That's where the Crackers played. And [unintelligible] lack of stadiums in Atlanta [07:22] at that time, they used the ballpark for a football field. So we saw some great games there.

INT: And so were you dating when Wayne decided to go ahead and join the Army [07:35]?

ES: We had been dating.

WS: Well, you see, I used to go -- they would invite me to their house for dinner on Sundays after the church service. There was some friends of theirs by the name of Waits [phonetic] who was there and her cousin, Horus, the one that gave me the job after I got out of the Army [07:58], and his wife. And we [08:00] always had a very happy time there around the meals. And then sometimes we'd get in their car and we'd make trips, such as that. But that's how we spent a lot of our Sunday evenings. In fact, Brother Max [phonetic] would be preaching at some --

ES: Mission.

WS: -- mission church and we'd go over there. He -- her daddy owns this big [unintelligible] on that. And so that's the way our -- how our courtship evolved. And one time we went to little Switzerland. Her aunt had a nice, cool place up there in little Switzerland, I don't know [unintelligible].

ES: North Carolina.

WS: And so her mother and daddy and Evelyn [08:57] invited me to go along with her. And [09:00] we had about a two day trip up there and we had a great time, a great time together. And this thing progressed along that way. We had our spats. We had numerous. I was sort of jealous when she had other fellows.

[laughter]

And -- which she did.

INT: So, Evelyn, what did you think when you saw Wayne in his Army [09:26] uniform then for the first time?

ES: Well, in Atlanta [09:32], every time -- just more and more of these young men his age and my age were even -- they were all wearing these khaki uniforms with their -- the wool color, what was that called, that grayish color?

WS: [inaudible] uniform, wool -- it was [10:00] the same color as that right there.

ES: Kind of a grayish color, but I just saw them more. When you'd walk down [unintelligible] street and the streets of Atlanta [10:12], you didn't see too many fellows dressed like they normally would dress. They were always in a Navy uniform, the whites are the Navy's, and then the khaki colors that Wayne was wearing. But everybody -- just about everybody we knew, all the boys who was in the service, going overseas.

INT: And so did you keep corresponding when Wayne was in training and whatnot here in Georgia [10:40] when --

WS: Yes.

ES: Yes, I did, and he was down at one of the [unintelligible]. Is that where you was that made them --

WS: It was Camp Wheeler [10:47] [inaudible].

ES: Yeah, Camp Wheeler.

WS: And also, when I was at P.O. Box 1142 [10:54].

INT: Sure, sure. So what do you remember, Evelyn [10:58], about when Wayne found out [11:00] that he was leaving Georgia [11:02] and going up to Washington, D.C. [11:03]?

Were you still dating? You were dating?

ES: Yes, when I came to the house on July the 4th, 1942, my daddy and I was washing and waxing our 1939 Ford. I had a bathing suit on so I could get wet.

[laughter]

Well, he had come to tell me he was leaving that day, parts unknown. He was in the Army [11:28] and he had to go where they told him to. He said, "I'll be in touch with you and let you know where I am." Well, that's where he was, at Post Office Box 1142 [11:39]. That was out of Virginia. So we corresponded.

INT: Could you ever call on the phone or was this all by writing?

ES: No.

WS: No, it was all writing.

ES: It was writing. [unintelligible] with 3 cents.

INT: And so at what point did you guys decide to get married [12:00]? Did Wayne propose to you or was it kind of just a mutual decision or what?

ES: It was all a mutual decision.

WS: Yeah, I --

ES: I had some tickets to go see the ink spots at the city auditorium. So he picked me up and

--

INT: So this was when he was on -- you were on furlough?

WS: Furlough, that's right, in May of '44.

INT: May of '44? Okay.

ES: We went to the auditorium and you had --

WS: The suits, right?

ES: What was that?

WS: No, it was the old auditorium.

ES: The old auditorium down on Corban Street. And I -- you had George's car, didn't you, that Mercury?

WS: I had the --

ES: The little coop?

WS: Yeah.

ES: And so we had a car when his brother was in the service. The car was at their house and so Wayne was driving and then went to Atlanta [12:55] to the show, and I probably went to the Varsity afterwards. That was [13:00] a hangout for all the young people. And then we decided we was going to get married.

WS: Well, we came home and we were sitting on -- we were sitting on the porch, on the side porch. And she said, "Well, why couldn't we get married and I could come live off the post there with you?" And I thought, "Well, that sounds great to me."

[laughter]

And so we had to go -- well, you go ahead. We had -- we went and told our mothers and daddies.

ES: Yeah.

WS: [inaudible]

ES: [affirmative] And that was on a Wednesday.

WS: Wednesday, yeah.

ES: Then I went to work that Thursday and I told them -- I said, "If I'm not here Friday, I'm going to be getting married," something to that effect. So I didn't go to work the next

day. And that Friday, my mother and I [14:00] went into Atlanta [14:02]. Well, in those days, my mother had to be there to witness that I was going to be married, and she would sign because the laws were very strict. So that was on a Friday. And then I met my friend, my best girlfriend, Tommie, and we went to Atlanta [14:24] that Saturday, did a little shopping for some things that I would need as a young bride. And then also I think my mother and I bought the dress [unintelligible] in Atlanta [14:34]. It was a two-toned blue dress that I had. And he was in his Army [14:39] clothes so people didn't have these big weddings and receptions and all, because we got married at 6:00, we --

WS: On a Saturday.

ES: -- on a Saturday, May the 27th of '44. The train left Atlanta [14:56] at 7:00 and we was going to Mobile, Alabama [15:00]. So from -- the railroad depot wasn't too far from downtown Atlanta [15:06] central Baptist church there at the Fulton county.

WS: Terminal station.

ES: Yeah, at the terminal station at the city hall and the state capital. So we got on the train and after we got married, rode all night long. And soldiers and sailors and the Marines was on that train. And they pushed the seats back to back and they'd lay under the seats.

INT: [laughs]

WS: Some of them were drunk.

ES: And I think I was about the only female onboard.

WS: There were probably some other females on the car.

ES: Huh?

WS: There were probably some other females on the car.

ES: Yeah, we got down to Mobile about like 6:00 in the morning and his brother-in-law H.F.

Huron [phonetic] met us there at the railroad depot.

WS: See, he was dating my sister. He works in radio [phonetic]. And we [16:00] were there for about a week.

ES: We got there on Sunday morning and then left the following Friday at night, rode the train up. And this is -- see, the houses weren't air conditioned in those days --

INT: Right, sure.

ES: -- well, it's warm in Atlanta [16:13], real warm in June. So what we did, we went home and took the suitcases. We were both real tired. We went back to the Paramount Theater up on Pastry Street [phonetic] and saw --

WS: Didn't we [unintelligible]?

ES: Yeah, we had some pictures made out, Tull & Meyer [phonetic] studio. But we went to this theater because it was air conditioned and we sat there and just slept.

WS: And we saw, "For Whom the Bells Toll."

ES: That was it.

INT: And so, Wayne, did you need to arrange for an extra-long furlough?

WS: Yes, I did.

INT: And how did you --

WS: I was just there, but short furlough. And so I would call back and get permission from the first sergeant. All the other folks [17:00] were rough [phonetic] about it, but, "Oh, I guess we can let you go and have an extra few days." And so I got an extension to my furlough because that made it possible for us to have a honeymoon.

INT: So then immediately after the honeymoon, did you both immediately go up to Alexandria or did you --

ES: I didn't. I waited two weeks. I had to give them two weeks' notice. I worked for Wesley and Akery [phonetic] which is a branch of Southern Bell [phonetic] in Atlanta [17:28] on Forest Avenue [phonetic] near Georgia Baptist Hospital. And I worked two weeks and then packed up. I had a trunk, loaded it up with stuff, radio. Television wasn't even around --

INT: Sure, sure.

ES: No. I had my little radio and my clothing and everything.

WS: Let me throw in a little something here. She had -- let's see [18:00], after the honeymoon, I went back and we had to find a place -- I had to find a place we could live. And the places I looked at that were open in Washington, D.C. [18:17] at that time, they were -- I wouldn't let my dogs in some of them that I looked at. But my friend, Arthur Whelchel [18:28], he had his wife up there and they had found quarters in the middle part of town. He said, "I'll tell you what" -- I said -- he said, "You can use this apartment after I move out." And he was moving out then.

INT: Was he moving to another apartment somewhere?

WS: Yes, he was -- he found another place, another house somewhere where he lived with his wife. And so --

ES: In Alexandria.

WS: -- that -- and we looked at that, it was just [19:00] so much better, such a much nicer place. And so when she got to where you could pick up -- when you rode the train.

ES: I rode the train. Yes, I did.

WS: In the middle of that was on a Saturday --

ES: A Saturday.

WS: -- and incidentally, when I went back to the camp and I showed her picture, these guys could not believe it. You remember how I mentioned John Beck [19:37]?

INT: [affirmative]

WS: He went bonkers. "You mean that, you're going with that girl?" He says, "I think I'm going to settle down now and get married."

[laughter]

And he was a womanizer. That was the last thing he'd ever thought about.

ES: That picture's still here.

WS: But he could not believe that I had -- that I had such a beautiful girl. And [20:00] that was the reaction from a lot of the men up in my outfit. And they were delighted, and the major especially. He was just delighted that I had gotten married.

INT: So did many of the men on post live off post?

WS: There was quite a few. There was quite a few that did.

INT: Okay, and so if you lived off post, you just had to be there? You said before you had to be there by reveille?

WS: Well, at first, it was not that way. But as soon as I had gotten married, it passed around that you had to be there at reveille. The others could come in by the time we started working in the evaluation center [20:43], I don't know when it was. And so from that point on, we had to be there by reveille.

INT: And so how would you usually get down there?

WS: Well, I would have [21:00] [unintelligible]. There were certain fellows that lived off the post and I bummed a ride with them. That's the best recollection I have of how I got to and from.

ES: We lived in Arlington.

WS: Well, this lady we lived with was the first problem we had [phonetic]. We may have told you, she was very antagonistic toward any soldier that was not [unintelligible]. She could send you a malingerer and she was very vocal in her -- and outspoken in her theories about soldiers that hadn't gone overseas. And so we wanted to get out of there because even though it was a nice little apartment and we loved it, it wasn't much, just a couple of rooms, wasn't it?

ES: One room with a little two eyed burner to cook on, one stove -- little electric stove and that would be it [22:00].

INT: Wow.

ES: We had to share the bathroom. And the girl -- and the couple that lived in another room next to us, she was pregnant and she had her morning sickness. And she was in the bathroom a whole lot. I was barely introduced that day [phonetic].

WS: But soon we found our -- we could pay a place at the Jubal Early Home, which was set aside more or less for workers in the Washington, D.C. [22:38] area --

ES: Pentagon [22:39].

WS: -- and the soldiers in that area.

INT: And so how long did you live in the Jubal Early Homes for then?

ES: Oh, I came home in September of '45 because the war came to an end and I knew we didn't know what was going to happen with the GIs. So --

WS: [unintelligible] that was really one of the happiest times [23:00] of my married life because we just drove together. And we could -- we could invite someone real fast to come and have dinner with us and [inaudible] that little apartment we had.

ES: Larry Schuette?

WS: Larry Schuette [23:17], he came and had dinner with us. And George Allen [23:22] -- he and his wife -- they had an apartment not far from where we were. And so we had -- we had that freedom and it was really a nice time. And the people that were in the apartments around us -- and we would go to the church on Sunday, downtown Washington [23:50], and I can tell you -- you want me to tell him about how we went to the Capitol?

ES: Yes, and [unintelligible].

WS: Well [24:00], one Sunday, I -- it wasn't -- no, it must not have been a Sunday because they were in session. And I told you, we went to the -- it was in the center -- we get to the center and we got to the balcony there and I was in uniform and she was just gorgeous. And that sir, he just took us right down out in front of the balcony. Best seat in the house so we could listen to the debate between Claude Pepper [24:32] and Robert Taft [24:34]. They were already [unintelligible]. And that, to me, was impressive to see Claude -- to even sit in that section. And [inaudible]. People [inaudible].

INT: And so I was looking through the photo album and I saw there were some picture of you guys along the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway.

ES: Right, right [25:00].

INT: Do you -- what do you remember about the highway and then what would you do there? Picnic or swim?

ES: It was a picnic with two of the couples.

WS: Well, one time before that, we wanted to bicycle and we got rid of the bicycle and [unintelligible] in the bicycle -- well, we didn't get to the camp. We were going to Mount

Vernon, but I think you gave out or something.

ES: Yeah, that's a long way to --

INT: Yeah, it is a long.

WS: [inaudible] long way, so we turned around and went back.

INT: Just along the highway?

WS: Along Mount Vernon Highway.

INT: And so would you picnic there a lot or just once or twice?

WS: No, not -- that was an unusual occasion, that. We would gather sometimes afterhours.

We would get together with Arthur Wilson [25:53] and his wife. And --

ES: Jackson [25:57].

WS: Did she have a baby? Do you know?

ES: Yeah, she had a baby [26:00].

WS: I think she had a baby at that time and Ralph Jackson [26:05] and his wife, and Evelyn [26:07] and I, and we had some wonderful evenings together.

ES: We even ice skated together that year in '44 at Evelyn and Arthur Whelchel's [26:17] apartment. We cooked turkey [unintelligible] [laughs]. We didn't know how to cook turkey, how to make dressing, anything. We did okay.

WS: Well, she did very well cooking. Her mother had taught her well. And so we had some wonderful meals.

INT: And so how -- this whole time when -- especially when you were living up in Alexandria amongst all these other soldiers that worked at 1142, what did you know about P.O. Box 1142 [26:52]?

ES: Not anything. I just knew he left every morning to go have -- eat at the [27:00] base, then

come home that night. But I knew this is war time, and I never asked any questions because I knew a lot of the people around me whose husbands was in the station over -- I don't know close to the different things.

WS: Right, tell them what you did there while we were living there, [unintelligible].

ES: Right. Well, there must have been a connection. I got a Civil Service [27:29] job but they told me then at that time that they didn't have any openings for anything. But when I filled out this form and everything, where we lived and my husband was at Post Office Box 1142 [27:41], all the sudden there was a job available. I always thought, "I wonder why there's a job available when there wasn't one earlier?" But, see, I went to work going across from the national airport. There was a building over there. No air conditioning in those days [28:00]. They had these windows up [unintelligible] up in there, and they'd open them up with these chains. And when the weather got above 90 degrees, we got off of work and went home because you couldn't work in there, it was so hot. But it was across the street from the national airport. There was a building there. And we got along great with all of those girls working there. They were all girls and the first time I ever saw so many men that were [unintelligible] dressed in uniform. There was a court martial going on at the room down from the building I was in and right down the hallway was a door. They closed that door and that GI went in there because there was a court martial that went on. And that's the first time I ever knew a court martial.

INT: And so what type of work were you doing?

ES: Typing for them.

INT: Typing?

ES: I don't know. I've forgotten. You don't remember all of that, but I was working there at

that building and everything I typed up had [29:00], "Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania," on it. I don't know what that meant. Am I sending supplies there or something?

INT: Got you.

ES: It was enjoyable work there because all these girls were from other parts of the states.

INT: Did you ever -- I know you said all you knew was P.O. Box 1142 [29:21]. Did you have a suspicion that he was doing some sort of secret work or anything?

ES: Well, the girls that I worked with there at the airport -- we was all typists. They said, "We know where he's -- where your husband is." But we said, "We think there's something secret going on there." That's what they were telling me. I never did say anything.

INT: Now, how long after the war did -- would Wayne tell you bits and pieces after the war or when did you find out more about what he'd been doing?

ES: Do you remember? I can't remember.

WS: No, I don't remember.

ES: I just don't recall.

WS: It was just such a [30:00] complicated process of trying to explain what you do, we just didn't explain it. That --

ES: I just don't think we talked too much about it.

WS: Well, while we were there living at the Jubal Early Homes, in late February or early March, we got the word that my brother was missing. And that was the saddest time that we had there, knowing that -- not knowing of his fate.

INT: Right.

WS: It was a very difficult time then. But, overall, that time we spent together, I think, was

one of the happiest times of my life.

ES: By the way, when we was living there -- see, people didn't have telephones. They had the laundry room but linen -- when all the -- it was just a laundry room. You had to put the water down and [31:00] everything like that. We didn't have automatic machines, but there would be a telephone in that room with the laundry room. And people could hear that phone ring. They'd go answer it and then they'd knew -- we knew everybody around us, they'd come and get us. And then that's when we got the word that Harry [31:20] was reported missing. That was a sad time.

INT: Well, I think I'll call things quits for now, if -- unless there's anything else that you want to add about what you remember about 1142 [31:37] or Wayne's time in the Army [31:39].

ES: Didn't we -- did we go to a party there one time or something where we had a social event? Was it --

WS: [unintelligible]. Oh, Magus Hapner [phonetic]?

ES: Yeah, we went to his house.

WS: Yeah, he invited us, the boys in the evaluation section [31:55], to his apartment. And I might add that he [32:00] gave a party for me and the evaluation section. He had a cabin on the banks of the Potomac.

INT: Wow.

WS: And he was so overjoyed by me getting married that he says, "We got to celebrate this." And so one weekend, we all met there on the banks. And he had food and we had BBQ, good beef, good food, and cigars, and there were drinks available. I was not a drinker of any consequence [laughs], but this Sergeant Cook [32:42], he was an old alcoholic. He

knew, he knew, but -- and incidentally, colonel -- Major Szlapka [32:51]. He was a hard drinking man. And you'd never know it, but he did and he smoked long, big cigars [33:00]. And so he had -- we were celebrating at the time [phonetic] and Sergeant Cook [33:06], he concocted a drink that would knock a horse over, and I didn't know it. And so I took mine, and I enjoyed it, and I felt real good and was sitting on the banks of the -- in one of these wooden LINOS-type [phonetic] chair. And all of a sudden, time to be getting down. And out of perspective -- and I got real sick. But they walked me up and down, up and down, trying to bring me around. Then the major, he said, "Let's take him inside and put him on that cot in there." He said, "We got to take care of this boy." And as I understand, I went right to sleep, and the major says that he was worried to the extent [34:00] that he would get up in the night just to see if my heart was all right, if my heart was beating.

[laughter]

He was that concerned about what happened. The next morning, I was all right.

ES: This [unintelligible] half made it.

WS: [unintelligible] bed and breakfast. And we don't have to talk about that [laughs]. It was -
- the guys at camp, boy, they were upset with Cook [34:24] for doing that.

ES: He wasn't a drinking man.

WS: I wasn't a drinking man. But I didn't want to be a drag on the celebration, so I --

ES: That's before I got there.

WS: Oh yeah, that's before we --

ES: Yes, because we never had a drink or anything like that because we went to that church every -- almost every Sunday we'd go to that Baptist church. And every time I heard the

Hallelujah chorus was --

WS: That's where we did it.

ES: -- it was at that church at Calvary -- was it Calvary [35:00] Baptist?

WS: Yeah.

ES: There in Washington [35:03].

WS: And we went with George Allen [35:05] and his wife.

ES: I -- oftentimes, it would be Sunday afternoon because I worked six days a week and he did also. And we'd usually just go to the show on Sunday afternoon at the church. But our income was very, very limited.

INT: Sure, sure.

ES: Very limited because when he told me when we got married -- he said when he -- his parents didn't have too much money, so he sent home money every month for his mama and daddy, money order. So that's why we were very limited also, but we survived.

WS: Oh, yeah, we did fine.

ES: Praise the lord for that. Anything you wanted to ask?

INT: No, I think -- unless -- if you think of anything else.

ES: Well, I came home [36:00], the war came to an end and we didn't know what was going to happen to Wayne. We was living in that project there. Here I am pregnant. So we knew I shouldn't be living there. I was coming home. So I went out to Walter Reed Hospital [36:17] where Joyce was to be born if I stayed there. But the war was at an end, and so we knew I had better come home. So on the -- when the doctors knew that I was going to come home, I would have to travel. They said, "You're not to go by train." I flew home and that was an experience.

INT: Really?

ES: I never had been on a plane.

INT: Wow.

ES: That's the only time I've ever been on one.

INT: Wow.

ES: And my mother --

WS: She was pregnant, [unintelligible] she was pregnant.

ES: My mother and my best friend, Tommie Jackson whose husband was still overseas in Germany [36:55], they met me at the airport. And I was so excited to get home, I forgot my luggage [37:00].

[laughter]

So they sent it down to Lucky Street [phonetic] in Atlanta [37:05] where the drop-off place was and picked up a ticket to that. So my mama went down to Atlanta [37:13] and got my luggage.

INT: That's good.

ES: It was wonderful getting back. A hot September day, but we used to enjoy Sundays. We got to go to church, then go to the theater, and when I was pregnant up there in Washington [37:30], I was showing pretty good. But, boy, the serviceman's wife got attention. They gave me their seat, got a seat on the bus, everything. It was nice, really.

INT: Well, I'm going to go ahead and call it quits for now if that's okay.

[End of Tape 2B]

[Beginning of Tape 3A]

WS: -- the troops there would be rather unique [unintelligible] but I don't think you got any

formations --

INT: We sure don't. We sure don't. Okay, well this is the final in a series of interviews with Wayne Spivey. This is Brandon Bies of the National Park Service. And it is the afternoon of Thursday, August 31st, 2006 and we're going to just finish up with a final half hour or so here, just some final questions and whatnot for Wayne. So, Wayne, I think the first thing I want to do is I have a printout here of some documents that we got from the National Archives [00:44] and these are some of those rosters I was telling you about. It actually starts off with a record of interrogations and talking about how many prisoners [00:54] went through during each three-month period.

WS: Yeah, see, I never had access to that [01:00]. I never knew how many went through there.

INT: And it's interesting. They even classified the percentages that were anti-Nazi [01:07] versus Nazi [01:08] and whatnot.

WS: Yeah, interesting. Very interesting.

INT: And that's the reports of interrogation. This is the number for each month all the way down through.

WS: Oh, I see. Yeah, that's very interesting.

INT: And then information received, interception verbatim conversations of prisoners [01:33] and material supplies with prisoners. And then they've got the listings of all the information received. And I'll skip ahead a little bit here because these are just more numbers. Then they talk about the extracts and whatnot.

WS: Yes, yeah.

INT: And you've been familiar with all of that. So, again, this is just numbers. Those are draft

reports [02:00] and memorandums. I'm going to skip through some of these here.

WS: Do you have a list of the commanding officers that were there?

INT: That is what I'm skipping to right now as -- in fact, all of the officers.

WS: [affirmative] That would be very interesting.

INT: Now, this isn't the best copy. In fact, this is a little bit out of -- this is a little bit out of order. This is enlisted men. So let me --

WS: Yeah.

INT: -- let me skip here. Now, this is the unfortunate thing. These are the officers.

WS: Yes.

INT: And you can see, unfortunately, the way we copied them, we missed some of the ones here.

WS: Aw, shucks.

INT: But you have -- but we're going to go back and try to make cleaner copies of those to get some of those names.

WS: Oh, now there's Paul Kubala [02:59]. You see, he was [03:00] the company commander at that time.

INT: Okay.

WS: From July the 20th -- see, he was there. I got there on the 13th, he got there on the -- is that -- yeah.

INT: Yeah, first [inaudible] --

WS: He got there the 20th. So that's seven days later.

INT: And he was there for almost exactly a year. He left in July of '43.

WS: Yes, I think I have a note in some of my notes when the first sergeant really departed

[phonetic].

INT: Okay.

WS: No, let's see. Now, there's -- that's Colonel [John] Walker [03:30]. Yes, he was a commander there. He was company commander when I was first sergeant.

INT: Who?

WS: Francis Dwight.

INT: Francis Dwight [03:39]?

WS: Yes, Francis Dwight. And he arrived on October the 26th and he left in 3/31 of '44.

INT: Now, when you say company commander, are -- you mean in charge of all of the --

WS: Yes, that's right. Well, yeah. He was [04:00] -- he was company commander the way I understand it.

INT: Of all the men that were there, essentially?

WS: Yeah, one of the PWs [04:08].

INT: For the MIS-Y [04:10] program, not for the X folks?

WS: Yes, that's right. That's right. That's it. That's the way I understand it.

INT: Okay.

WS: Now, let's scroll down here.

INT: Sure, you can just scan on down the list.

WS: This is interesting, very. Van Cleve [04:22] sounds very familiar. Holbrook [04:25] sounds familiar. Nelson, Johnson, Nelson, Wolfe [phonetic]. Does it have Bynum [04:33] in here?

INT: It may. We can go -- and, again, it would be -- it's by -- it's organized by the date that they arrived.

WS: Oh, he --

INT: So if he didn't get there till later --

WS: -- arrived as an enlisted man, but he's --

INT: Oh, then he's probably under the enlisted men. So did you look through any of these down here?

WS: Yeah, I want to look at that. [John] Starr [04:53], let's see, there was a -- Adams, see, there was a [05:00] Captain Adams [05:02]. I think he -- I would identify him as such in those pictures that Rudy [Pins?] [05:10] sent you.

INT: Oh, okay. There you go. There's Bynum [05:15] right there.

WS: George Bynum, that's right. Sailor [unintelligible], that's right. He arrived -- you see, now that's when he became an officer. That's when he arrived in [unintelligible]. And he generally -- left much sooner than I did. And it would be interesting to find out what happened to him afterwards. I -- like I said, I think he was the judge here in the Camp Campbell [05:44]. And, let's see, Wolfe. That name sounds familiar.

INT: And then there's Szlapka [05:48].

WS: Szlapka, there's my man right there. He got there in '43.

INT: And I'm guessing the fact that there's no date for departed, that means -- I think that means when this was [06:00] produced, he was still there.

WS: Still there.

INT: Yeah, so this was probably produced some time in late '45, early '46.

WS: Yeah, he was very prominent in the operation there. I'm sure he knew an awful lot. [inaudible]. There was a [Francis] Lord [06:25]. I remember a Major Lord. He was a real loud mouth.

INT: Lord, you said?

WS: Lord, L-O-R-D. I don't see him in here. But this is great information here.

INT: You can see the number of names that we have. This is why it takes so long to try to track these names.

WS: Yeah. I had no idea so many men passed through there.

INT: Now, this is a tough one because a lot of these have been cut off, unfortunately.

WS: Yeah. Is there any way you can [07:00] correct it?

INT: Yeah, and we're going to try to do that. We're going to go back --

WS: I hope you can.

INT: -- and so we can copy some of it. Unfortunately, for right now, we won't be able to see them all, but we're going to try to get that.

WS: Was there a Colonel [Russell] Sweet [07:15]? It seemed like there was a Sweet.

INT: There was. He was on the first page. I think it was either Matthew Sweet or maybe Russell Sweet.

WS: Yeah, I think it was Russell Sweet [07:23].

INT: Russell? Okay.

WS: And I think he was high in the intelligence hierarchy because I remember seeing [unintelligible].

INT: You mentioned Bliss' [07:35] name.

WS: Yes.

INT: What do you remember about him?

WS: I just don't remember much. I -- this -- him being a commander. Commander White [unintelligible] thinking about. Oh, I [inaudible]. He was the [unintelligible]. He was a

noncom [unintelligible], he was [08:00] -- I thought the world of Andrew Olson [08:03].

Now, let's see, these are still majors. Steven Rogers [phonetic], [unintelligible] gosh, so many of -- all these were in the PW [08:15] section?

INT: All of these were in the PW section, yep.

WS: Wow. I had no idea there was that many. [Alfred] Bomberg [08:26], that sounds familiar.

INT: It's interesting here. There, that's listed a Catherine Vernon listed as a WAC [08:34].

WS: Oh, I didn't know there was ever a WAC there. What time?

INT: '45 it looks like, early. January of '45.

WS: Yeah, well, it must have been, I didn't know about it. But I've forgotten a lot. [inaudible] There's so many [09:00].

INT: Have you mentioned Wolfe [09:02]? Was there --

WS: Yeah, Wolfe. He came in '45, didn't he? I didn't know him. Let's see what we got here. Kelly, Carl, [unintelligible], Starr [09:20]. One of my documents is signed by Orion T. [phonetic] Adams [09:33], but it's the same name that was on my orders when I was transferred from the Fort [unintelligible] headquarters.

INT: Really?

WS: And that's sort of got me stumped, how it could be the same name, unless they copied it there at Fort -- at 1142 [09:52].

INT: Now we're in enlisted men's roster here.

WS: Oh, yeah.

INT: And let me -- I just want to make sure we get all of them and then we can skip, but I think [10:00] we're in good shape. Yeah, okay, so this is the start -- so you've got the first

enlisted men showing up on July 13th.

WS: Yeah, that's when we all came. Bynum [10:11], he was there. He was a sergeant.

Schenk [10:16] was the first first sergeant that I knew there. Arthur Whelchel [10:20], he came up with me. See, there I am.

INT: Right.

WS: I was there, a PFC when I arrived.

INT: And the fact that this still says that you're still there makes me think that this was probably produced before December '45 because otherwise it would have you as having left.

WS: Yeah, yeah. And there's old Carl Haden [10:44] [phonetic], Kraus [10:46].

INT: And what do you remember about Carl Haden?

WS: Always had a big old smile.

INT: Yeah?

WS: Yeah, and that's about the most I could remember about him. He was a big old sort of bulky German [10:58] boy. And [11:00] -- but I don't remember much. There -- is that [John] Castore [11:04]?

INT: Probably, yeah.

WS: That's my boy Castor.

INT: And what did you remember about him?

WS: Well, he was the one that bounced like a little ball. And he -- I remember we were talking about how they would interrogate criminals and they were -- they would be adamant in their refusal to answers questions until they sprung some hidden information that this fellow never realized they had. And he said oftentimes that would create a

chance for them to get information. Now, there's Lawrence Schuette [11:44], bless his heart. He's still in -- still there, right?

INT: Right, right.

WS: And [unintelligible]. That's Castore [11:54] and -- was it -- there was more [12:00] -- there was [Lee] Whiting [12:02] [phonetic], that's [unintelligible] and then he was there. He came in the same time we did. Zimansky, Schultz [12:12] definitely, Schultz, Captain [George] Frenkel [12:18].

INT: Yeah.

WS: Frenkel, yes, I remember him.

INT: Do you remember Frenkel?

WS: Yeah.

INT: Because we -- Frenkel is still living.

WS: He is?

INT: We actually -- he called -- he actually lives right outside of Washington, D.C. [12:29], and because of the Washington Post article, tracked us down. And so we're going to go and interview him in a couple of weeks.

WS: If you do, ask if he remembers me.

INT: I absolutely will.

WS: Because I believe I remember him and just tell him I was, at one time, an acting first sergeant.

INT: Sure.

WS: Now, there is Eber Hall [12:49], the old boy that was such a help to me. And so Pat McDonna [phonetic], I always figured he was a technician there. And [13:00], let's see

[unintelligible].

INT: I'm not sure what that is either.

WS: That's Whitney there, Hugh Whitney [13:12]. Now, I'm not -- I don't think that was the same one that I said was setting up PX [13:21] [unintelligible].

INT: Oh, okay.

WS: I think that was -- that was like sergeant -- there was a sergeant?

INT: Yeah, I think so.

WS: Aw, shucks.

INT: Yeah, and this was says --

WS: Aw, what a shame. Callahan [13:41] was the Mormon.

INT: Oh, right, Sterling, that's the one, do you -- would you want to talk about him a little bit? Because you talked to me on the phone about that, that one time.

WS: Oh, really?

INT: But it -- yeah, but we haven't recorded it yet. So what do you remember about Callahan [13:55]?

WS: Well, Callahan -- he was a -- he was a very [14:00] nice fellow. He was a Mormon and he let everybody know that he was a Mormon. He was a little [unintelligible] fellow. He talked polite and that's the best I knew about him. He was a very friendly person. And, yeah, I wish I could remember more about him. But I definitely remember him. And, like I say, we played his people, the volleyball.

INT: Oh, right, right.

WS: And they stomped us into the ground. Let's see. Yeah, it looks like a hitch, doesn't it?

INT: Yeah, I'm sorry to --

WS: Aw, shucks, that's a shame.

INT: Well, we'll try to fix this some time.

WS: Raymond, I remember him. I -- yeah, I think he was -- he was learning another language while he was there [15:00]. That's the same one. He was taking Spanish, I think. I wish I could [unintelligible] there's Arthur Sharp [15:13]. He got there. He was just a PFC at the time. He left in May of '45. Well, I guess he did.

INT: And so it was Sharp [15:25] -- he was the leading sergeant of the evaluation section [15:29]?

WS: Yes, he was. He was right there next to Major Szlapka [15:34]. There's my boy Ralph.

INT: And he's still listed as being in there.

WS: Yes, he's still in there [phonetic]. Here's Wolfe. I remember that name very well.

INT: Okay.

WS: And Snyder -- let's see. That's Chester [15:54] there, William Chester [16:00].

INT: Now, in these, unfortunately we skipped a couple pages and we're going to have to be -- we're going back to the Archives [16:06] to copy these because you see we go from date arrived of '43 and then we skip all that.

WS: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

INT: So, we're going to get those, but I wasn't able to bring those with me, I don't believe.

WS: These were much later, so I would know very few of them. There's Schenk [16:21] again. He came back apparently unless it's another Schenk.

INT: Or -- I don't know if they would include times of promotion or something like that.

WS: Yeah. [Marvin] Levinthal [16:38], that's my main man. These are Japanese [16:40] names, there.

INT: So, unfortunately, that's all that I was able to bring with me --

WS: I see, I see.

INT: -- but we're getting --

WS: Did you have [17:00] one in -- I can't remember his name -- [Lewis] Logan?

INT: Logan? I'm not sure.

WS: Yeah. I thought his name was Logan [17:14]. He might not have lasted long [phonetic].

I remember seeing him there in the barracks having interesting conversations with him.

When you say you're going to try --

INT: We're going to get cleaner copies of that and when we do that, I'll mail them to you.

WS: If you would, yes.

INT: Because I'd be real curious, because what might be great is if I sent you a cleaner copy of this, and if you wanted to go through and type up in an email or something the -- if you recognize a name and then a quick word or two about what you remember about that person or anything. And we'll try to get you a more complete list.

WS: Yeah, yeah.

INT: So that's the last of the documents, really, that I had to give you [18:00] and you can hold on to. Now, the other thing --

WS: Oh, are these my copies?

INT: You can keep those, yeah, for now. You can certainly keep those. Now, I do have with me some of the information that you had faxed me about the noncommissioned officers' party and everything. And I figured we could maybe do the same thing and run through this thing here --

WS: Yeah.

INT: -- and see what other names you might remember.

WS: Well, I remember Firke [phonetic]. I remember him and he was -- I remember [Robert] Crawford [18:37]. I -- if I'm not mistaken, he was my roommate the last few months I was -- before I was discharged.

INT: Okay.

WS: He was a devout Catholic boy. And [inaudible].

INT: And you had mentioned Ost [18:55] up here before, right?

WS: Ost, yes. He was first sergeant [19:00]. And Sergeant Clyde Cook [19:03]. He was in the evaluation section [19:06].

INT: Oh, okay.

WS: There's [unintelligible].

INT: Oh, right, right.

WS: Yeah, I forgot. And so he -- it's interesting. Well, maybe he just made a copy of it there at 1142 [19:21] of the orders that -- they were cut [phonetic] for us to come to Washington, D.C. [19:28] because they're signed by Orion Adams [19:35]. But I think he was probably in the officers' work there. Now, let's see, you want to compare some of these to --

INT: Yeah, I just thought if you wanted to run through any of these names and see if any other ones in here look familiar if you remember any stories about them.

WS: Oh, I see [20:00]. I wish I could remember more about him. Time has erased a lot of things. I think I remember Elliot Grover [phonetic]. I think he was in one of those pictures. [inaudible] Arthur Sharp [20:30]. Arthur Sharp offered to teach me German [20:34]. I wish I had taken him up on it. [unintelligible]. I was [unintelligible] job, and I

had other things on my mind, and I [unintelligible] very apt teacher because he was very knowledgeable with that. And [inaudible] [21:00] noncom. And Norman Hoffarth [21:08], he's in that big picture that --

INT: Okay.

WS: -- [unintelligible].

INT: Oh, okay.

WS: That's about all then. I missed William Schuette [21:34] here. Is that the same one?

INT: It may be. You say you remember his name was --

WS: Will or Larry [Schuette] [21:42] -- Laurence, something like that. But I can only remember one Schuette being there. I remember Thomas [unintelligible] [22:00], but for some reason, I can't remember much about him. I just wondered what some of these guys were doing there. It's not hard to guess [unintelligible] --

INT: Sure.

WS: -- but [inaudible] let's look at these promotions that we have here. Oh, Walt [phonetic], he's in that big picture --

INT: Right.

WS: -- like I said. And he was discharged at the same time I was.

INT: William Chester [22:40]? Okay.

WS: Yes. And then [unintelligible], he was promoted to corporal on this date, let's see, this was 1943. At the same time, I made staff sergeant and [inaudible] [23:00]. See, that's Francis Dwight [23:02] right there. You see, he was [unintelligible] at that time.

INT: Okay.

WS: Thomas Dickerson [23:13], I remember him, and there's Frenkel [23:16].

INT: Oh, right.

WS: George Frenkel. You see, he made sergeant the same time I made sergeant. And here's Whitney [23:26] and Schuette, [unintelligible] Eber Hall [23:33] made corporal there. Thomas Pierce [23:40] and [inaudible]. See, now that one looks like Kubala [23:46].

INT: Okay, right.

WS: And that was [unintelligible] November of '42. That was before Francis Dwight [24:00]. [inaudible] and there's Castore [24:07]. I have a suspicion he was with the CIA [24:10] after this, just like Chini [phonetic].

INT: Okay.

WS: I just wish I could remember more about more of these people. And there's proof that I was acting first sergeant for a while.

INT: That's right.

WS: And this is what I'm talking about. See?

INT: Oh, yeah.

WS: See, that is -- officers' quarters are near headquarters, post office building laterally joined [phonetic]. And it signed certified by Orion --

INT: That's OF Adams [24:51].

WS: -- Adams -- yeah, and it makes me wonder. Was he at Fort [unintelligible]?

INT: It was the other -- that's OF Adams, Orion F. And [25:00] what was the other one?

WS: That was the officers left.

INT: Didn't you have one of these signed by an Adams [25:08]? Maybe not. We'll have to check.

WS: Yeah, but -- see, that was -- shows it's restricted here. And my impression was that he

was the secret orders. In fact, I had one of [unintelligible] all chopped up like this, where
--

INT: Oh, wow.

WS: -- the essential information was not included. Now, let's see. The initial [unintelligible] you see, that was his headquarters in the War Department then. And that's -- this shows us [26:00] being in temporary duty, to a transferring grade, to [unintelligible], which is Fort Hunt, P.O. Box 1142 [26:08].

INT: Right.

WS: And this is also signed Orion [26:14].

INT: It sure is, isn't it?

WS: Orion Adams. And this is my discharge. Excuse me, I think I'm going to sneeze.

INT: Gesundheit.

WS: Thank you [laughs]. That's it.

INT: That's great.

WS: All right.

INT: Well, let's go through. We've got just a few more minutes to go here before I have to head on out. So let me ask, again, these are some of the last specific questions that I thought of, kind of off the top of my head questions, things that we might have skipped over. Do you remember any women being on the post at all?

WS: No, I do not.

INT: Okay.

WS: As far as I was concerned, it was all men [27:00].

INT: And we talked already about the Asian-American [27:06], the Japanese [27:07]

Americans that were there --

WS: Yes.

INT: -- and some of the Italian-Americans [27:10], the Italian folks that were there.

WS: Yes.

INT: Do you remember there being any African-Americans [27:16] who were there? No?
Everybody was white?

WS: That's right. Yeah, it was before the Army [27:22] was integrated.

INT: Okay, right, right. Do you remember, did you have a special uniform or special patch or anything like that or were you -- you were --

WS: No, no. We never had a special patch [inaudible] designated [inaudible].

INT: Right.

WS: It was all -- it was just general [inaudible], general service and stuff like that, a star or whatever it was.

INT: Got you. Okay.

WS: I think that's all we were given.

INT: Did -- were your uniforms -- did you dress in a dress uniform every day or was it [28:00] more casual?

WS: Oh, no, we had to be in uniform. But the summer was warmer, some [unintelligible] while --

INT: So in --

WS: -- while it was warm.

INT: Yeah, so in summer you'd just wear the shirt and the tie down?

WS: That's right. That's right.

INT: You wouldn't have to wear a jacket all the time?

WS: Sometimes in that hut we were in, it would be quite warm. And I think we could take off our ties and such as that, but we couldn't parade around without being properly dressed.

INT: The last thing I wanted to ask you, which isn't immediately related to your experiences at Fort Hunt [28:48], but we've talked a lot about it over the phone and in person is a little bit about your younger brother. And do -- would you mind telling that story and -- with him being shot down [29:00] and everything or --

WS: I wouldn't mind.

INT: -- do you mind talking about that?

WS: No, [negative].

INT: If you just want to take a few minutes to talk about that.

WS: Well, as I told you, we received first -- in the latter part of February, it might have been in March, when we received an urgent call from my sister inquiring if there was anything I could do to find out why my brother, Harry [29:29], had not written, that my parents were concerned about not having heard from him in the last few weeks. And so that had me greatly upset. And --

INT: Had you corresponded with him back and forth?

WS: Oh, yeah. We had -- we would correspond. I remember him telling me -- he says, "If I get out of this war alive, it is a miracle [30:00]." And I remember him saying that and I remember telling him [inaudible]. The saying was, "A gun today, I'm gone tomorrow [phonetic]." But we [unintelligible] and we talked about family, more than anything else. And then he would tell me what he was doing there, not about any specific flights or anything like that. But it was a very interesting situation we were in. In fact, he ran

across the boy who lived next door to us. He ran across him right there in the South Pacific [30:41]. And he told me about that and just general subjects we talked about. We talked about our faith. I told him about that and then he agreed. And I wish I had come [31:00] [unintelligible] the war, I know that. But eventually just a few days after the incident, my -- we got a letter and my parents got a letter from Officer Swindle [phonetic], I think, who was one of the officers in his squadron, and it was a noncom who wrote, advising what had happened, that his plane had been hit, that four parachutes had been observed. And I've got the letters down there in my file describing that and what they had hoped might have transpired, and that they knew that some had survived through the parachute jump. And that's as much as we knew.

INT: Did you ever get a telegram from the war department saying he was missing in action or anything?

WS: Yes, my parents did, and they got that word that he was [32:00] missing in action. And so we heard no more about it until after the war. And it was like everyone says. Sometime -- I forget the month that we were informed that they had found -- the OSS [32:24] team had found this cave with the urns of the soldiers, of the fliers that had been executed. There was also a Marine in there that had been executed. I think there were about 18 or 19 of them that were executed on that same day. And there was something about -- well, I guess the articles that I read about, that it was just a [unintelligible] trial. They didn't have a chance from the very beginning. But we learned most of the [33:00] details and what happened from Lieutenant Sherry [33:03] [phonetic], the only survivor of the ones that parachuted out with him. And he was subsequently transferred to Tokyo. And after the war, he paid a visit. He wrote a letter, first, to my parents, that he was out

of the Army [33:22] now and he hoped they was well and he wanted to come by to see him. And we did and I think he stayed with my sister and her husband. They spent the night there. He gave them all the details [unintelligible] that Harry [33:43] did succeed in parachuting out, but that in -- while he was coming down, he was wounded in the arm or shoulder, I forget which. And when they landed, according to the [34:00] article [unintelligible], Lieutenant Sherry [34:09], this whole community outside [phonetic], that they made for some woods there, and that -- according to his article, a Japanese [34:21] with his sword drawn [phonetic] was about to decapitate him when they spotted his bars. And so they stopped him and they -- he said, "You do know [unintelligible]" PW [34:36] build [unintelligible] guards that they made it back in the story as to where they were based [phonetic]. But, subsequently, they were tortured to an extent and one of them broke down and told them that. And then the treatment [35:00] [unintelligible] was unimaginable. And if you read about how the Japanese [35:09] treated the prisoners [35:12], they -- the more Anglicized you appeared, the worse they treated you. And my brother had all the aspects of an Anglo-Saxon: red headed, freckle faced and all that. So it's just hard to imagine what he had to go through with it. Like I said, I wish they had let him write a letter or something in his final days, but I just -- there's not a day that passes by that I don't think about my brother, not a day. And so that's been about the story. And then they got a letter after they [36:00] found out about the disposition and the ashes [phonetic]. And my parents were ready for them to submit it here [phonetic]. And they - - we had a funeral service at the church with which he belonged. And then they -- his ashes were interred up here at Marietta National Cemetery. Then we had the honor guard extend the 21 gun salute and [unintelligible]. One of the members of that honor guard

happened to be the soldier that stuck his head in the door while I was at Fort Knight [phonetic], telling us that Pearl Harbor [36:48] had been bombed. I didn't [unintelligible], but I knew it was him. And he saw me, I know, because I could see the question in his eye. What irony [37:00]. He decided to stay in the Army [37:02]. There he was. It just was [unintelligible] at my brother's funeral.

INT: Well, I appreciate you sharing that. Is -- that's about all the time that we have. Is there any last minute thing, anything you think that we've -- that we've skipped over, you haven't had a chance to talk about?

WS: No, I just wished I had better recall and I wish I had -- I could confirm more of what you got.

INT: Well, you helped tremendously. You really, really have.

WS: Oh, I hope so.

INT: The photographs and your own personal recollections have been tremendous.

WS: Yeah, well I hope so. I hope I'm able to tell the story [phonetic] because they were a fine group of men and I feel like they made a great contribution to the war. They were dedicated in their work and they were loyal Americans [37:58] and I'm proud to be [38:00] a part of them.

INT: As you should be.

WS: It was a great honor to be included in such a -- even though it seemed like it was an accident --

[laughter]

-- that I got in there, but I'm thankful for it, the way that things started to happen.

[end of transcript]

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