

Fort Hunt Oral History  
P.O. Box 1142  
Interview with Gerald Stoner  
by Brandon Bies and Vincent Santucci  
February 12, 2008

BRANDON BIES: Okay. Today is February 12, 2008. This is an interview as part of the Fort Hunt Oral History Project for the National Park Service. We are here at the home of Rita and Gerald Stoner in Saratoga, California, interviewing Mr. Stoner, who was, although short-term, a veteran of P.O. Box 1142. This is National Park Service Historian Brandon Bies, as well as Chief Ranger Vincent Santucci. With that, we'll go ahead and get started. Mr. Stoner, would you mind starting off with just telling us very basically where and when you were born?

GERALD STONER: I was born in Oil City, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1920, and I went to school through high school there, and then went to Allegheny College for my first year [01:00], freshman year. At that point, my family decided that they wanted to live in California, and so I decided I'd better transfer from Allegheny, and I did so, to Stanford [University], and graduated from Stanford, 1942.

BB: Prior to going into any more detail with that, as you were growing up, did you study any foreign languages or anything prior to college?

GS: Yes, I spent about 10 years studying Hebrew. After school, like for an hour, they had what they called Hebrew School, and my parents sent me there for about 10 years. In fact, it was largely because of that that I was accepted into the program at the Japanese language school, because Colonel Rasmussen [02:00], who came around to interview us - - he went all across the country in college -- he, at first, didn't seem to be -- to think that I was fully qualified, but when he asked me do I know any other languages, I mentioned French and then Hebrew, he said, "Well, if you can learn Hebrew, you can learn

Japanese.” His idea was that both of them were written in an unusual script.

BB: So you studied Hebrew for 10 years.

GS: Right.

BB: Just a few other quick questions. Did you have any siblings growing up, brothers or sisters?

GS: Yes, I had an older brother, six years older than I, Norman [02:50]. As a matter of fact, maybe this is getting ahead of the story, but Norman was accepted into the Navy Japanese [03:00] language program.

BB: Really?

GS: Yes, before I was accepted into the Army. The Navy program was in University of Colorado, Boulder, and he was accepted about, what, six months, I guess, before I was accepted into the Army school.

BB: I think that might be somebody we would like to talk a little bit about in a few minutes. I think it would be very interesting to compare your two experiences a little bit. And so, again, you then entered -- would it be 1938 is when you went to Allegheny?

GS: 1938, yes. I graduated high school and entered Allegheny.

BB: And what did you start studying? What was your field of concentration?

GS: Well, at Allegheny, being a freshman, as you may know, we were required to take, oh, I don't know, four or five subjects. I actually wound up taking seven [04:00] courses, as I recall, and, as a matter of fact, history was one of my favorite ones. It was Western Civilization. You've heard of these survey courses, of course. But this was very early in the period when they began to have the survey courses. I believe it was started at the University of Chicago, and Allegheny adopted it. So, history, and I studied French and

English and, you know, the usual assortment. I can't remember exactly. Allegheny gave me a scholarship, and that was very important because this was the Depression, and my parents had lost --

[phone rings]

Excuse me.

BB: Sure thing [05:00].

[audio break]

GS: I was talking about the scholarship I got to Allegheny. Although my father had been quite successful during the 1920s, he lost his shirt in the stock market in the Great Crash, like so many other people, and so we had very limited means in the 1930s to go to college. My brother had also gone to Allegheny his first year, and then he was able to get a scholarship to go to Princeton. He wound up going to Princeton and doing a very fine job there. He's the one that I'm telling you about went to the Navy school. He was Phi Beta Kappa at Princeton. He was the manager of the debating team, and, in fact, arranged the first transcontinental [06:00] debate between Princeton and Stanford. It was the first time any college teams had ever debated. He was president of what was called Whig Hall, named after the British Whigs, of course. That was quite a group to be -- the presidents of Whig were quite a group to be part of. For example, President Madison, James Madison [06:32], was a president of Whig Hall when he was at Princeton. So my brother overall had a very good record there. But then he went -- one of the reasons that I went to Stanford was he went out to go to Stanford Law School, and he suggested that I think about going to Stanford because -- for a number of reasons [07:00], so I did.

BB: Did you continue that same field of study at Stanford, or did you concentrate on

something else?

GS: Well, at Stanford I was a political science major with a specialty in public administration. I actually was interested in serving in municipal government, like a city manager someday. But when I graduated from Stanford, the war had started already in December '41. So I had taken a course in Japanese at Stanford. There were only eight of us in that class, but you can imagine that the Army was interested in virtually all of us, and so eventually, when I wound up at Ann Arbor [08:00], there were several members of my class at Stanford that were with me at Ann Arbor. I graduated from Stanford in 1942, as I said, and the fact that I had studied some Japanese, of course, also did influence the colonel who interviewed me, remember I told you, but I mentioned it initially to him, and it didn't seem to have a lot of impact, primarily because I told him that I'd only studied it for a number of weeks, and he was familiar enough with Japanese to know that that's a spit in the bucket, you know. Anyway, that was how I started in Japanese.

BB: Got you. Just a quick question. You mentioned that you were at Stanford when the war started. Any recollections of Pearl Harbor [08:56] and America's entry into the war?

GS: Very, very much [09:00]. On that day I was in a restaurant in Palo Alto, sitting at the counter and having my lunch, and they had a radio going on in the background on a shelf, and all of a sudden the announcement about Pearl Harbor [09:21] came on. It was as if everybody just stopped and were so shocked. I mean, we couldn't believe it. So that was my memory of the moment.

BB: Did you -- then you obviously continued your studies at this point. When you graduated in, I guess, spring of 1942, did you enlist, or were you drafted?

GS: I was drafted, but before I was drafted, this [10:00] colonel who was looking for people

to train in Japanese had come around to Stanford before I -- like he came around like in May or June or something, just before graduation, and he interviewed us. Those of us who were accepted, he said -- let me see. Oh, I told him I was going to be drafted, and he said, "Well, go ahead and be drafted." He said, "We'll contact you in the service and let you know when to report for the school." So like most other inductees, I reported to the Reception Center in the Presidio of Monterey. The Presidio of Monterey processed the new draftees, and when I was being processed, they came across my record [11:00] in public administration at Stanford, and precisely because I had taken a number of courses in personnel administration, they assigned me to a group whose task it was to classify the new recruits as they came through. I mean, some of them had truck driver experiences; some were college professors. Very interesting. So I was doing this work, and I kept wondering, as the weeks went by, when the school officials were going to contact me to come to Michigan. The time went on and on and on, and I heard nothing. I was almost going to give up on it, and particularly since, even in a few months that one is in the Army, you learn that there are all sorts of foul-ups, as you well know [12:00]. It's such a huge organization. But anyway, I actually enjoyed my experience trying to classify people. It was challenging, and you felt a particular responsibility for these people because some that couldn't be fitted in very specialized categories were just going to be put in the infantry. As a matter of fact, one thing that I remember was that we would very carefully classify these people, and this was early in the war when the United States was not doing very well, so the need for infantrymen was very great. So what would happen is we'd classify hundreds of young men, and then all of a sudden the head of the Presidio would get a telegram from the War Department [12:59], which it was called in

those days [13:00], and it would say "We need 500 recruits right away for the infantry."

So in many cases our work was for naught because they just took just a whole bunch, just a number of people and put them in the infantry. It was a little hard for us to see that and accept. But anyway, I was there for several months.

BB: And you had not yet gone through basic training or anything like that?

GS: No.

BB: You had just been inducted, and then immediately --

GS: Just been inducted, and they immediately assigned me this task. It was particularly nice because we actually had a fairly nice office, and the people in there I found very compatible and very nice. They ranged all the way from ordinary college graduates to college professors who had been inducted, and we sort of had a [14:00] close association. One day I was at my desk, a buck private, of course, and the sergeant in charge of us comes over to me and says, "I need to see you." And the tone of his voice was not -- I mean, he used to be a pretty friendly guy. He said, "Come with me." And I thought, "Boy, oh, boy, what have I done now?" So he takes me outside the building, and he says, "Look," he says, "I have some orders for you from the Military Intelligence." He said, "You're supposed to go immediately to Washington." And he said, "I want you to just go, get out of here." He said, "Go down to the Quartermaster Corps. Draw anything you want," he says, "any equipment, any supplies." I mean, my interpretation of his attitude was that he thought that I was some kind of a military agent, you know, that they plant in units to see if they're doing the job and so [15:00] on, and he just wanted to get rid of me. I mean, it was obvious, and at the time I couldn't figure it out, because he was a nice guy and we had a, you know, kind of a rapport, relationship. So anyway, I went down and

drew a bunch of clothes -- I knew I was going to a warm -- I mean, a cold place -- and a few other things. I guess, if I had wanted to, I could have drawn anything, the way he spoke. So I got on the train and went to Washington, but I couldn't figure out why I was going to Washington. I knew the school was in Ann Arbor [15:40]. Well, I thought maybe they wanted to process us further in Washington, then we would go to Ann Arbor. So I got on the train. As you know, in those days, most people didn't fly; they went by train. This was somewhat unusual, I think, because -- going on this train myself, because [16:00] buck privates in those days didn't generally go anywhere without -- you know, they were usually part of a group and under an officer's or at least a noncom's supervision, but here I was; they left everything up to me, when to get on the train, when to -- I think they gave me a ticket. I'm not sure. But that was how I wound up in Washington.

BB: So you had, as you stated now, no briefing, no nothing, never had ever heard of P.O. Box 1142 [16:42] or Fort Hunt or anything like that?

GS: Absolutely not. I hadn't the faintest notion of where I was going.

BB: Presumably, did you take the train on into Union Station in Washington, D.C.?

GS: Yes, in Washington I got off at Union Station, and [17:00] I think the orders said "report to the War Department [17:05]. So I found out where it was, and I think I took a taxi to the War Department." They had a room number in there, and I asked around. The Pentagon [17:18], as you know, is huge. I found my way finally, and they said, "Oh, yes. We were expecting you." As a matter of fact, I'm sorry, it was not the Pentagon; it was the War Department [17:31], which was fairly big anyway. So I reported there, and they said, "Well, just wait around a while. We need to do some things, process you," or

whatever. So I waited and waited that day, and finally they said, "Well, you're ready to go to your destination." And they said, "There will be a truck that will take you," and they told me, you know [18:00], where to go and get the truck and so on, so I did. I got on the truck and we start south of Washington, and I figure, "What's going on here?"

BB: Were you with other people or just --

GS: I think there were -- no, I can't honestly remember that. I may have been alone, but there may have been others. Anyway, we were going along -- I guess it's the Parkway? Is that what it is? I think it was in existence then, wasn't it?

BB: Yes, it was. It was then known as the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway.

GS: Okay, that was it. So we're going along, and we come to an area that was lined with a lot of trees. It was almost like forest, strictly on one side. I guess it was, what, below Alexandria?

BB: Yes, correct.

GS: Okay. So we're going along [19:00], and all of a sudden the truck slows down, and I couldn't see what was going on. Where was the truck -- you know, why did it slow down? And as he slowed down, I began to see an opening in the trees, in the woods, and there was a -- I think it was a dirt road actually that went in there, and I couldn't figure out, "What's -- where are they taking me?" Anyway, we drive in and I get off the truck and go to report, I guess, one of the buildings there, and they said "Oh, yes. We've been expecting you. Now, you'll be in barracks so-and-so." I mean, everything was as if they were trying to keep, right from the beginning, as much as possible, the information away from me. So they assigned me to a barracks, and I [20:00] was in there, and I think it was [Paul] Kubala [20:03] who sort of took personal charge of me. He said, "Well, you" -- he



said, "You just stay here and we'll let you know when we need you." I said, "Well" -- I had brought my Japanese books from Stanford. I said, "While I'm standing around," I said, "could I study Japanese? Because it's my understanding that that's what I'm going to be doing eventually." So he said, "All right. Go ahead." So for, I don't know, a week or two they left me alone, trusted me. They don't usually do this with privates, you know. They supervise everything. . I sat in the barracks and studied my Japanese, which I thought would be, you know, helpful in the new school. Time went on [21:00], and finally Kubala [21:03] came in one day and said something like, "We haven't heard what to do with you yet, and we can't just let you be here and study." If you can imagine that. He said the -- what do they call them? You know, the guy who -- the orderly for the officers had been shipped out somewhere, and they needed somebody to take his place, to take care of the officers, shine their shoes, and the usual stuff. So he said, "We would like you to do that." Now, can you imagine? You know, as I go along, I'm going to point out to you, this is very characteristic [22:00] of the military, I would say of any large organization, these foul-ups and the way -- and the way -- and the illogical things that they do. Here they took me away from my studies and put me in cleaning up the officers' barracks and so on. Well, one of my jobs, they had an old pot stove-like, that heated the showers in the officers' quarters, and every morning I had to get up at about 5:00 or 5:30 and start that stove and get the water to be heated. I had been a Boy Scout and knew something about making a fire, but this crazy stove I couldn't figure out very well. So I got it started a couple times, but most of the time I couldn't [23:00] do it very well. Finally, Kubala [23:04] called me in one day and he said, "Look," he said, "We can't -- Colonel [Daniel W.] Kent [23:09] is complaining that he didn't have his hot

shower in the morning, and we're going to have to get somebody else." So they got some poor soul, whom I knew vaguely. I can't remember his name, but they got him to take over the job, and they left me to my own devices, studying and so on. Kubala [23:34] kept checking with me, you know, and he would keep telling me, "Don't worry. In a few days we'll know." Well, this went on, I think, for weeks. Finally, one day Kubala tells me that they've received orders to send me to Ann Arbor [23:53], Michigan. I thought, "Boy, thank goodness. At least we're on track now." But before I leave [24:00] the story of 1142 [24:04], there was another officer there by the name of Captain [Herman W.] Boesch [24:08]. Is he still living?

BB: We haven't located him.

GS: Okay.

BB: I can't remember off the top of my head. He may not be, though, so --

GS: Well, I don't want to say anything bad about anybody there. I'll just say that I didn't feel that he treated me very nicely. He really -- you know, it was like the old idea of the officer and the enlisted man, and the enlisted man wasn't worth anything. Kubala [24:50] was quite nice. Paul -- Kubala had an interesting background. He was of Polish-German descent, as I recall, and [25:00] he was quite nice to me. He tried to make my life there livable. The other person that I remember in particular was the noncom who was in charge of the enlisted men. At that time it was Marvin Lorinthal [spelled phonetically].

BB: Levinthal?

GS: Levinthal [25:19], sorry. I believe Marvin actually became a judge in Philadelphia.

BB: Really?

GS: Yes, I think so.

- BB: You may be absolutely right. We have not found him, but we have found a Marvin Levinthal [25:34] who lives right over the river from Philadelphia in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.
- GS: Yes, I think that's --
- BB: But we haven't been able to get him to get back in touch with us.
- GS: I see. Well, he was very nice to all the enlisted men. He was a very nice guy, and, as I say, my understanding is that he became a judge in the Philadelphia area. I guess Cherry Hill must be the exact --
- BB: It's right [26:00] across the river.
- GS: Yes, that's probably where he lived and the court was in Philadelphia. Marvin was very, very nice.
- BB: Did you keep up with him after the war then?
- GS: I didn't. You know, I regretted that I hadn't kept up with these people, but anyway --  
[phone rings]  
[inaudible commentary]
- BB: We'll keep on going, don't worry.
- GS: So, at any rate, on December 31st, I guess it was, I left Ann Arbor [26:50] to go to Michigan by train, and I reported there on the 1st of January. Now, when I got off [27:00] the train in Ann Arbor, the saga of the lonely private continued, the saga of the unsupervised, lonely private. When I got off the train at Ann Arbor [27:18], there was no one there. There were not even civilians there at that point, for some reason. Maybe they were all enjoying the holiday. Certainly there were no military people to greet me, take me where I was going. So I walked into the -- there was a stationmaster on duty, and I

said, "What's the best way to get to the campus from here?" And he said, "Well, you probably should call a cab." So we did. Anyway, he took me to the campus and I asked him to take [28:00] me to the security office. I had figured out that on this huge campus certainly the security people would know what was going on, that they were setting up a school there and so on. So I went to the security office, and they said, "Yes, you go to this dormitory," and referred me to the place where I went. And he said, "There's an office there, I think. They'll tell you what -- you know, they'll take it from there." So that was how the school -- my schooling in Japanese in the Army started, at Michigan in this dormitory. It was a very interesting experience. When the military gets into a civilian area, you know, they actually add something that's of value, and [29:00] there's real good discipline, but it also, again, you're part of this large organization, this Army, and so there are foul-ups right and left. You've heard the expression SNAFU, situation's normal all fouled up. In my own experience in the Army, I could cite you a half a dozen or more examples. I've already cited a couple of them. But to me, this was an interesting experience. I mean, even though we were under a lot of pressure, I was still able to sort of stand aside and see myself and these other guys, see what was going on, and how the Army operated. Anyway, I don't know to what extent you want me to go into the program there.

BB: If you'd like to, that'd be very helpful for us, since it was another military language program or intelligence program. So feel free for a little bit.

GS: Okay [30:00]. So our -- the course was one year long, and the program went like this. From 8:00 in the morning till 1:00 in the afternoon, as I recall, we were in class, five hours. Then we had lunch, and then the afternoon was devoted to military training,

because the military, of course, said, you know, "Yes, you're going to be Japanese language officers, but you have to be a military person." Incidentally, unlike the Navy. When my brother went to Boulder, the students there didn't wear uniforms.

BB: Really?

GS: They were called naval agents, and for the year that they were there, they dressed in civilian clothes. They didn't have any specific military training [31:00]. My brother said that it was just like being in college, you know; you studied, that was it. At Michigan, it was the Army. You were in the Army. For example, we would march between classes. Everywhere we went, we marched.

BB: So almost like an ROTC program or something?

GS: Yes, very much, except it was even more rigidly controlled. Because in ROTC you could go to the dormitory, take off your -- well, I mean, even on the campus you would go to class in civilian clothes and so on. So everywhere we went, we marched there.

(End of Tape 1A)

(Beginning of Tape 1B)

GS: At night we would study, required, from 7:00 to 10:00, and that was usually in the library, so it was supervised study. Go to bed at 10:00, and then get up, I think it was 6:00, and have the usual military formations in front of the dormitory. Then they'd take roll and all that sort of thing, as I recall. It was quite an intensive, as you can imagine, program. The interesting thing was we started off, I think, with about 175 students, and we wound up -- again, as I -- I don't remember the exact number -- about 125. Virtually all of the 50 were relieved of their duties there as [01:00] students, based on their attitude, which is the military term for, you know, for a whole number of things where you didn't

really accept discipline. We had several guys, for some reason, that couldn't march. They were always out of step. Now, what that had to do with becoming expert in Japanese and rendering a real service, I don't know, to kick them out, and you don't know what kind of units they wound up in. Some of them may have wound up in the infantry. I don't know. But the -- we were down to 125, and there were some outstanding students in there. We had one fellow from Harvard [02:00] by the name of Horowitz [02:04], and he had studied some Japanese at Harvard, but when he came to Michigan [02:15], he was so good that there was talk that they would graduate him in six months instead of a year. I think -- incidentally, the advanced program from the program I was in was at Fort -- was at Camp Savage [02:40] in Minnesota. Did you ever hear of Camp Savage?

BB: We have, from some of the other veterans we've spoken to.

GS: Good. Were these enlisted men? Nisei [02:50] and --

BB: In this case, the gentleman that comes to mind actually was an officer, an American.

GS: Do you remember his name?

BB: Yes, Richard Kleeman [03:00].

GS: Oh, Richard Kleeman. He was part of our unit in Michigan [03:06].

BB: Really?

GS: Yes.

BB: So you remember him?

GS: Yes, of course. In fact, I believe he was at our reunion. I think we met him.

BB: Yes, Dick Kleeman.

GS: Dick Kleeman, yes.

BB: Fantastic. Well, Vince will get a kick out of that. Well, Dick Kleeman lives in Washington, D.C., not five miles from our offices.

GS: Oh, no kidding.

BB: We've interviewed him already, and he was -- at the end of the war he was stationed at P.O. Box 1142 [03:32].

GS: Oh, no kidding.

BB: As an interrogator. That's how we -- that's how we know him.

GS: Oh, my.

BB: He was never accidentally stationed there. He was stationed at a number of locations. In fact, we'd like to get into a little bit later, there's another location out in California called Camp Tracy [03:48].

GS: Yes, I've heard of Tracy.

BB: Super. Good. I'd really like to talk about that. But Dick Kleeman [03:54] actually attended the reunion that we had back in October.

GS: Oh, no kidding. I'm sorry I didn't [04:00] -- I missed that.

BB: Well, we'll get you -- the DVDs we'll send you have videotape of Dick Kleeman [04:09] getting an award, and actually each of the veterans that was there was able to speak for five minutes or so about their experiences. So you'll get to see that. And I'd be more than happy, if you'd like, to pass along his phone number and address, if you'd like that.

GS: Sure, I'd like to have it. He was a nice fellow, as I recall, very nice.

BB: Absolutely, and the other -- we're actually in touch with another interrogator on the Japanese language program, who we're actually going to be interviewing this weekend. His name is Louis Nipkow [04:40]. It's either Nipco or Nipkow, N-I-P-K-O-W. He is, I

believe, a quarter Japanese, but three-quarters Anglo.

GS: I don't recall the name. For one thing, you know, there were several classes that graduated from Michigan in the program [05:00], and Dick [05:02] and I were in the first program. We were the first ones to go through it. Anyway --

BB: I'm sorry to have taken you off track.

GS: Oh, that's all right.

BB: You were talking about how the Michigan program was typically a one-year program.

GS: Yes, oh yes. Then the advanced program was at a place called Camp Savage [05:28], which was outside of Minneapolis, and actually a miserable location in a way because it was recovered swamp land, and the buildings were all wooden and it wasn't very comfortable. But this was where the Nisei [05:47] were being trained to be language -- you know, interrogators and translators. During the war, the War Department [05:59] had a policy [06:00] that Nisei [06:03] could not become officers, no matter how good they were in Japanese, although I think there was some exception made later in the war for one or two people that I'm aware of, but most of them, they didn't allow it. At Savage [06:23] they were separated from us, more or less. They pursued their studies and we pursued ours.

BB: And they were studying -- they were enlisted, though?

GS: They were enlisted. All of them were enlisted.

BB: At this point, had you been commissioned yet?

GS: No. It took 10 months at Savage [06:43] and the one year at Michigan [06:44] to graduate from the program and get your commission.

BB: So essentially it was a two-year program.



GS: Yes, absolutely.

BB: Wow. And real quick, before you go on, when you were at Michigan, did you receive any military intelligence training [07:00], or was it just Japanese language?

GS: It was Japanese language and what you might call officer training in some respects of infantry, some administrative, officer-type training, nothing terribly in depth, but we had to learn how to fire a number of weapons. As a matter of fact, I remember one of those. Let's see, what was it? Oh, the short rifle.

BB: A carbine?

GS: A carbine. Yes, I remember I became a marksman, I think, with a carbine. For some reason, I was able to shoot with that pretty well. But anyway, yes, we had military training, a variety of it. And we had -- for example, we had a bivouac. You know what a bivouac [08:00] is? You go out and camp for about three days. I think that's what it was, about three days. Let me think a minute. Was that in Minnesota or Ann Arbor [08:16]? I think it was Ann Arbor. We went out in the countryside, and on that particular day it was one of the worst thunderstorms that we had had all year, but the military, you know, they said, "Well, this is probably good for these guys, to get out." Well, one thing I remember was when we went to sleep at night, you couldn't sleep on the ground. I mean, it was just flooded, practically. We had rubber things to put, but it was no good. So like most of the other guys, I stood up the whole night. There was thunder and lightning also, and we were among these trees. We couldn't get away from the [09:00] trees in this area, and so it was some concern. But anyway, that was a miserable experience. So when we graduated from Camp Savage [09:19], we became second lieutenants.

BB: Okay. When you were at Savage, did you receive military intelligence training there?

Was Savage training you more to be an interrogator?

GS: As a matter of fact, I don't think we ever -- at least in my experience there, maybe some guys got special training, but I never recall receiving any kind of what you'd call military intelligence training. The only training, aside from this military infantry, using weapons and all this sort of thing, was [10:00] -- what was I going to say? You want to turn it off a minute? I forget.

BB: Sure.

[audio break]

GS: To analyze one of the early big battles in Europe from a military point of view. That is, it wasn't strictly intelligence; it was the way the enemy attacked and what we responded or the Allies responded. What was the name of that? It was a famous battle, and the general -- not Richthofen [11:00]. Anyway, one of the famous German generals was in charge, and we were supposed to study his strategy. It had nothing to do with intelligence as such. I remember we each had to get up in front of the group and deliver a report on what we had learned over the past few weeks about this. I found that quite interesting because I'd never looked at any military strategy to any extent. So that was one thing that was different than what I described before. We did have a few projects, as I recall, like that. The other thing that might be of interest is that after about four or five months of this intensive training, it began to get to a number of us. As I said, some of them were just [12:00] tossed out because of their attitude. They couldn't take this rigid regulation of their lives every minute of every day. So one night -- incidentally, the lights would go out at 10:00 at night, but the study requirements were so rigid that many of us would go into the only lighted place, the bathroom. It was lit up at night, and we'd go in there and

sit around and study. That's how demanding the program was. One night there were some of us in there, and one of the guys started talking about, boy, what a -- you know, in language I won't use, but it was, "What a program this is. It's so difficult and it's just driving us [13:00] crazy." We were studying the Japanese characters. I don't know whether you're familiar with them at all, but the Japanese written language is done with these characters, some of which are ideographs that are written to look like whatever they refer to. But the worst part about it is that many of the characters consist of multiple strokes. There are even some characters that go as high as 25 to 30 strokes, one character, and you're supposed to learn the order of strokes, the stroke order. You start over here and do this. So that's a real challenge. I must say, that between the two, speaking [14:00] the language and writing the language, I sort of enjoyed the challenge of the written language. It just fascinated me. Also I thought the characters had a great deal of beauty about them. The Japanese, they're just sort of balanced and beautiful to look at. As you may know, in some Japanese homes they'll take one of these Japanese brushes that write, they call it a fude [14:27], and they would take a fude and paint a big character, something they wanted to represent in their homes, and frame it. It was beautiful. I admire that very much. So anyway, I enjoyed that, but it was very difficult. Five of us were sitting around in that bathroom, and one of the guys made the comment about this [15:00]. Some other guys piped -- some other guy piped up and said something like, "You know, it's too bad my folks," or my sweetheart or something, "can't see how much we have to put up here, you know, see what we're doing." Well, that triggered a comment from one of the other guys. I don't remember the exact words, but this is the way it went. He said, "Why don't we do some skits to show our life here,

and it'll give us a little break from this thing?" Well, immediately somebody said, "What are you talking about, skits? We don't even have time to study." And he said, "Well, you know, even if we have to sit in here longer, we could dream up some skits, some ideas for skits." And this wasn't just [16:00] pulled out of the air. As it turned out, the guy that was speaking had directed student musical shows at Columbia, and one of the other guys there was his colleague at Columbia, to do this. In fact, the director, this guy I'm talking about, is now a topnotch documentary producer, and he produced a documentary about the unit, which you may not be aware of.

BB: No.

GS: You ask me about it later.

BB: Super.

GS: Anyway, another one of the guys in the bathroom that night was a former Broadway actor, and then it just happened in my own case, I'd had a little experience writing music for similar student shows [17:00] at Stanford. So we suddenly realized that we had the makings to produce a show like this. So to make a long story short, we agreed that night to try it and see if we could do it. Well, largely because of the talent of the two top people I mentioned, we were able to turn out a bunch of skits that lasted about two hours and were concerned with aspects of our life. These guys were talented writers, the director and his -- were both talented writers, and they produced a really entertaining show. We went to the commanding officer, who was just a lieutenant at the time, maybe a captain, and we told him what we had done, and [18:00] fortunately he thought it was a great idea. So he said, "Let's put it on for the unit, let them -- for our own people." So one Friday night or something, we put on the show for our own 100-and-some people,

and they just laughed their heads off. Oh, I forgot to mention, there was a guy from Yale who also had written lyrics for music in student shows. I mean, we just came together almost by accident. And so he and I got together and wrote seven or eight songs for this, and our guys in our unit just, you know, were very pleased. So our commanding officer said, "Well, you know there are a lot of other military groups on campus." At that time [19:00] the Air Force was training -- the Air Corps was training weather forecasters, and there were a whole bunch of other units than ours.

BB: At Savage?

GS: No, no, this was all at Ann Arbor [19:11].

BB: Oh, this was still Michigan.

GS: I'm sorry, it was Ann Arbor. We -- so our commanding officer said he would talk to the heads of the other units and see if maybe we would put on a show for them, to entertain them, and we did, and, man, they were just very excited about it. Well, again, to make a long story short, about that time the National Theater Conference, as it was called, which was a group of playwrights and producers and directors in this country, decided to have a contest for military personnel [20:00]. They had them for drama, I believe, and then they had one category of musical comedies. We just had a series of skits, but these two guys were topnotch writers, and they sat down and wove a sort of a thread through all of it, and pulled it all together into a musical comedy, and it became a show like in World War I [20:32] Irving Berlin's --

[phone rings]

BB: Sorry.

[inaudible commentary]

BB: Sorry about that.

GS: It was called “Yip Yip Yaphank.” You’ve heard of Irving Berlin?

BB: Absolutely.

GS: Yeah, he wrote the music for that show, and it became a real hit. And then in World War II [20:57] there was a show called [21:00] “This is the Army.” I don’t know whether you’ve heard of it.

BB: Yes, I have.

GS: It was the same type of thing. So the National Theater Conference said, “We’re going to conduct a contest for the same type of show, for people in any branch of the military, Navy, Army, anything, all over the world.” We decided to enter our show in that. We had sort of forgotten about the whole thing, and one day [laughs] we get a notice in the mail that we had won that contest, first prize, and that was in spite of the fact that there were some Broadway writers in the military. Apparently one or two of them had entered their own shows. So we were quite excited [22:00]. The other thing was, there was a very small cash prize. It was, in today’s money, maybe \$1,000, \$2,000, and of course, we split that, but that wasn’t the thing. The National Theater Conference had arranged with 20th Century Fox to produce the winning show.

BB: Wow.

GS: Yeah. So we were just dreaming. But by the time they evaluated the entries, it had gotten to be late in the war. I don’t remember when it was. It was almost maybe spring of ’45, and I don’t know how they exactly got away with this, but they told us that they were afraid, that they thought the war was going to be over soon [23:00], and that -- they used the word “topical.” They said they thought the show was too topical. People would

be so sick and tired of the war, they wouldn't want to see anything else about it. So we never got the privilege of having the show produced as a movie.

BB: So it was never filmed?

GS: Never filmed. The only record of the show was this. After the campus performances, the Treasury -- well, let me see who it was. You know there were war bonds sold in the war, and they had offices all over the country selling these war bonds to try to help finance the war. The War Bond [24:00] Committee of Washtenaw County, where Ann Arbor [24:04] is, heard about this show, and they said, "Would you put on this show for a war bond performance?" The tickets would be -- you had to put up a \$100 war bond to get in. Ann Arbor [24:28] had a great theater. It was called the Michigan Theater, not on the campus; I mean a movie theater. It could hold 2,000 people. Well, we put on our show and we filled that place to overflow. They even had standing room. And because some people were patriotic enough to do more than just pay \$100 an hour -- a person [25:00], we actually raised in that one night one-half million dollars.

BB: Unbelievable.

GS: Yes, it was unbelievable.

BB: So how -- and how many of you -- it sounds like there were what, eight, 10 of you, who were responsible for this?

GS: I'm glad you asked that. By this time, this was a major production. Almost half of our unit was involved in either acting, singing, behind the stage. What happened was, as part of the whole thing, we decided -- oh, let me see. The music director for the show was a very talented graduate student at Michigan [25:51]. He was not in the Army. He had a very good orchestra. It was the campus orchestra, dance band, had about [26:00] 18

pieces in it. Are you familiar with Glenn Miller?

BB: Absolutely.

GS: Well, he had a Glenn Miller sound. I went to him and I said, "Look. If we put on this show in the Michigan Theater, would you be willing to be the pit orchestra for us?" And he said, "Well, let me hear some of the music." Well, I can't play piano very well, but I played it well enough, some of the songs, so he could get a feel of it.

BB: And this was all music that you had written?

GS: All music I had written. So when I was done playing it for him, he said, "That's great. We'd love to do it." He said, "There's just one catch." He said that the musicians [27:00] are union musicians and they have to be paid, even -- and unless we would go and ask each one of them to give up their pay, and he didn't seem to want to do that. I said, "Well, how much are we talking about?" And he said, "\$200."

BB: Per musician?

GS: No, no. Keep in mind this was the equivalent of almost \$2,000 in those days. So I said, "Well, let me talk to our commanding officer." I did. He approved the \$200, and we had this orchestra. It was so good, the orchestra, there was a national contest for college bands, college dance bands, and his orchestra won that. So we had topflight music. A couple of the arrangements were in Glenn Miller style, so they really sounded [28:00] great. One further thing about the Michigan Theater performance. We raised a half a million dollars. During that time, during the war, the Treasury Department asked various Broadway producers if they would set aside one night of performances and have the requirement for tickets a \$100 war bond. And, believe it or not, we raised more money in that one night than any of the famous Broadway shows that were on there at the time, and



that was very satisfying; [cries] I'm sorry [laughs].

BB: That's quite all right [29:00]. And that all started as a result of five or six guys studying in a bathroom.

GS: Anyway -- that's exactly how it started. Incidentally, the director of that show, after -- many years later, after he became a documentary producer, produced a documentary about our unit. It's about an hour long, and it's primarily focused on Japan with one of our former students being the main -- showing what happened to him after the service and so on, but there were pictures in there from our unit, including [30:00] the five of us that did the show. This was shown nationally on public television, including the local station here, and then was shown on NET in Japan, the national network, and apparently had a good reception there, because by this time the Japanese, you know, there's no longer the animosity between us, they thought it was really interesting to see Americans trying to learn their language because they know how hard it was. On this point, by the way, the Japanese security during the war was very lax because they assumed that the Americans could never learn their language well enough to translate it. They knew there were a few missionaries, sons of missionaries; there were a few people in the embassy [31:00] before the war that knew Japanese, but basically they didn't feel that they had to tell their soldiers, "You know, you're not allowed to keep diaries." Well, we were told we could never use a diary. Well, later on -- I'll get into this later on, but one of the main sources we had of intelligence turned out to be diaries of Japanese soldiers, which after a battle, our guys would search them and get the diaries and send them back to us in Pearl Harbor [31:32], where the Intelligence Center was that I was with, and we got a lot of valuable information.

BB: Super. This is a great stopping point because we've gone through exactly one hour, and we need to switch our tapes.

GS: Sure take it away.

BB: Quick little break.

GS: Yes, would you like to set up -- would you like some --

(End of tape 1B)

(Beginning of Tape 2A)

BB: -- in a series of interviews for the Fort Hunt Oral History Project. We are here at the home of Rita and Gerald Stoner in Saratoga, California. Today is February 12, 2008. This is a National Park Service interview with Brandon Bies and Vincent Santucci of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. With that, Mr. Stoner, you said there was one more story related to Ann Arbor [00:25] that you wanted to share.

GS: Yes. Wherever we went on the campus, as I indicated, we marched in platoons, and we were able to sing a number of songs that seemed -- we had some guys with pretty good voices, and we would march along and sing the different marching songs. One of the songs that we sang was a Japanese song [01:00], and it so happened that that song was the song of what was called the Black Hand in Japan. These were the most ultra-nationalistic -- they were almost like -- almost like the Mob, you know. They were a very feared group, and this -- they had one song that used to be associated with them. When the war started, the United States knew that a number of the Japanese who lived here had, you know, collections, record collections and so on, and they knew about this song. They put out a regulation [02:00] in some form -- I don't know what it was -- forbidding you to have these records or at least to play them. I don't know. It was a

strange situation became -- where they actually banned the song. I mean, they never banned "Beethoven's Fifth" during the war, but they did this song. Well, we learned that song, and we used to march all over Ann Arbor [02:34], not just to class, but sometimes for marching exercises, and we would sing this song. It was forbidden, and, of all things, an Army unit was singing it, and we used to get the biggest kick out of that, that we were singing this song and nobody would know what it was. We thought it was a pretty funny situation [03:00]. I don't know what would have happened if somebody from the War Department [03:06] had come out and found out what was actually being done, but that was one thing. The other thing was that as a result of that musical comedy that I mentioned, we had this chorus in it, and the chorus was considered so good that the -- let's see. NBC, during the war, was divided into two networks, the red and the blue network, and the Detroit radio station was, I think, the red network. I don't remember how this exactly came about, but our chorus went on the air every Saturday [04:00]. For a long time they would give a concert. And also one Sunday the chorus was invited to give a concert at the main auditorium on the campus, and they sang Bach and everything, and they also sang some of the songs from the show. It was quite a program, the show. They filled that auditorium with 5,000 people. It was the largest auditorium at that time west of the Mississippi. The reason I'm mentioning it is that it was such an unusual side activity [05:00], and it really did help. It raised the morale of the guys because they enjoyed doing this. As a result of that happening, the lieutenant who had been in charge of our unit was made a captain, and it was specifically said that he -- that by raising the morale in this very important program, he had made a great contribution, and this and that. I just thought I'd mention that.

BB: Sure.

VINCENT SANTUCCI: So Brandon, do you want to ask him? Do you know the song? Do you still know the song?

GS: I can play it for you.

VS: Could you sing it?

GS: Which one?

VS: The prohibited song.

GS: Oh, no, I don't remember that one. I'm sorry. I'm sorry about that. I wish I did. I don't even remember how it -- let me think. I think it went [06:00] [sings]. I don't remember the words. I'm sorry.

RITA STONER: Is that the Black Hand song?

GS: Yes, that was the song --

RS: Forbidden.

GS: The forbidden song [laughs].

BB: Do you still retain any ability to speak or read Japanese still?

GS: Very little. I can maybe carry on a very simple conversation. As I understand it, there are 30,000 characters in Japanese. The average college graduate knows about 10,000. Well, after almost two years of study and [07:00] two years of serving as a translator, I knew about 7,000 characters. Since then, I've used it a couple of times in my work. I used to work for the Department of Commerce in Washington in the Japan section, and they asked me to do some translating once. I did that, and there were a couple other occasions. I don't remember. The State Department brought over some Japanese businessmen, and I was asked to give them a little talk, and I was able to do that. But as

of now, I would say just about zero on both counts. I still, you know, know some of the characters, and I love to write them. I think [08:00] they're just fantastic.

BB: Great, well, if we could a little bit talk -- could you try to explain a little bit more for us what the difference was between your schooling at Ann Arbor [08:17] versus Camp Savage [08:20] in Minnesota? How were they different?

GS: Well, first of all, just the physical environment. We were -- you know, Michigan [08:29] has a pretty nice campus, nice buildings, nice surroundings, and we lived right there among all that. When we went to Camp Savage [08:40], it was not only a reclaimed swamp, but they didn't do an awful lot to make it comfortable [laughs]. There were just wooden barracks and other wooden facilities, and it was pretty rugged because the Minnesota weather, we could get down to 20 below zero, you know, and [09:00] that was not too comfortable. But the difference also was, well, obviously it was more advanced, so we got into some of the finer points of the language, for example. Again, I would emphasize there was never any training in actual intelligence work. They figured that we were going to do the translating, and some military expert would take it and use that information, or we would be interrogators and, you know, they would tell us what they wanted to know. So we had no specific training.

BB: Did they give you specifically interrogation training? Even though you did not go on to do much interrogation, did they teach you how to conduct an interrogation?

GS: I was never aware of that, and I was not aware of any of the other people getting [10:00] that training. When we graduated, some of our graduates were sent to Fort Meade [10:15]. Have you heard of that?

BB: Absolutely, yes.

GS: As an Intelligence Center?

BB: Yes.

GS: Yes, they were sent there to, I think, learn some of this business, some interrogation techniques, and so on.

BB: Are you familiar with another installation called Camp Ritchie [10:34]?

GS: Yes, that was another place that some of our guys went to. That was also in Maryland, wasn't it?

BB: Yes. Right on the Maryland-Pennsylvania border.

GS: Yes. Camp Ritchie, sure.

VS: What can you tell us about it? Anything that you can recall?

GS: I'm afraid I can't. I was never there. I just knew that some of our guys went there. I mean, you know, you'd talk to them and say, "Hey, where are you guys being assigned?" and the guys would say, "Camp Ritchie [11:00]." I did know that it was an intelligence operation, and I assumed it might be an Interrogation Center. I didn't know.

VS: Were these Japanese-trained interrogators that went to Ritchie?

GS: That's my impression. From our unit, of course, they were Japanese. Whether there were Germans there as well, I don't know.

VS: Okay.

BB: Again, and I think you touched on this earlier in our last tape, everyone in your class that was becoming an officer were Anglo Americans? There were no Nisei [11:34] or Issei who were being trained?

GS: No, they weren't all Anglo. I think there were also some -- let me think a minute. I think they were probably all generally of European descent, yes. It's interesting that it just

crossed my mind that [12:00] 1142 I noticed -- you know, nobody told me anything about what was going on, but after I was there a little while I began to get the sense of -- you know, I would notice who my fellow soldiers were, and a number of them were concentration-camp survivors. Of course, they knew German, and there were other guys who knew German. So I just put two and two together, and said, "What would this bunch of people be doing here? They must have something to do with getting, you know, information." But I had no idea of the importance that I get from reading your accounts and so on.

BB: We'll get back to 1142 at the end, but one very quick question. To your knowledge, in your two months there, were you the only person there who [13:00] spoke any level of Japanese?

GS: That was my impression, certainly. I never met anybody else, and I got the impression generally that I was a loose cannon or something, you know, that I didn't really belong there.

VS: One thing I -- maybe I just missed it -- did we establish the dates that you were at 1142 [13:26], beginning and ending?

BB: They are on the roster.

GS: I couldn't dispute these because I don't recall the exact dates.

BB: The one thing that you said that fairly supports that, I believe the roster has you arriving, I want to say, August 28th of 1942.

GS: Yes, something like that.

BB: And leaving at the end of October of '42. You mentioned that you remember you arrived at Ann Arbor [13:53] on January 1st of '43.

GS: Yes, now that puzzles me a little bit because --

BB: So that's about a two-month period there [14:00].

GS: Yes, October to January 1st.

BB: Again, we have found in the past that this roster is not always 100 percent accurate.

GS: Well, I must say, I mean, you know, as you said, 60 years ago, it's possible that I'm confusing dates and times. What I told you was my impression, what comes to my mind. But, for example, you show August that I left to go to Washington.

BB: Yes.

GS: No, you show August arriving in Washington.

BB: August -- arriving in Washington on August 28th, I think.

GS: I was inducted, as I recall, about October -- I mean, August 8th, and was sent down to Monterey [15:00], and didn't -- wasn't assigned to the classification section for a few days. Now, you say I left there on August 28th?

BB: I think it says you arrived at 1142 [15:17] on August 28th and left at the end of October.

GS: Okay.

BB: Let's just -- before we go any further, let me verify that so that we're not any further confused. Yes, arriving on August 29th and leaving on October 28th, that's according to this roster, but this roster may not always be --

GS: Well, it may also be correct. Those dates sort of compact the timeframe for my impression. And particularly, I wonder about when I left there. I mean, the program started at Michigan on January 1st, and that's when I reported [16:00]; maybe a day before it. I could be off. But I don't understand the period from October to January 1st. That could be a mistake.



BB: It could be, and again, it could be something as simple as perhaps that's when at 1142 [16:19] they realized, "Hey, this guy really shouldn't be here." This roster is strictly a military intelligence roster.

GS: I see.

BB: When they had you heating the showers and things like that, they could have considered you just part of the regular base support staff. For example, this roster does not include the cooks, the guards, the MPs.

GS: Oh, I see.

BB: They're not on here.

GS: So, in other words, my period of service there, whenever it was, ended on October --

BB: October 28th.

GS: But they didn't get rid of me until --

BB: That could be possible.

VS: But even more than that, your [17:00] role in the Military Intelligence Service ended, and they put you into more of a service responsibility, general service.

GS: That's possible.

BB: Do you remember -- if you can somehow ignore all of what we've just talked about and rely just on your memory, do you remember about how long you were at 1142 [17:21]?

GS: Well, as I say, my impression was that I was there probably, let's say, middle of September to the end of December.

BB: Got you. Because you remember going straight from 1142 to Ann Arbor [17:44]?

GS: Yes.

BB: And you feel fairly confident --

GS: No, no, excuse me. Wait a minute. Wait a minute. You've just raised something in my mind. They gave me, of all things, what do you call it, a leave [18:00], a furlough. My folks were in California, and I think I traveled to California at that point because the school hadn't started yet, and I guess they didn't know what to do with me, another one of these Snafu deals, and so I went home. But I wasn't there from --

VS: Not for two months?

GS: No, no, I was there maybe a week. An interesting story about that trip -- is this a good time to tell you?

BB: Sure, go right ahead.

GS: I took the train to California. Let's see. I got a letter from my brother about that time, Box 1142 [18:54], in which he said he was also getting a leave, just coincidence [19:00], and going home to California. He was getting leave from Boulder, Colorado. So anyway, I said -- we said, "Boy, it'd be great. We'll both be home at the same time. We can see each other," and so on. So I got on the train and -- let's see. We had a stop in Cheyenne, and my brother got on at Cheyenne. We were amazed at the coincidence that while we knew we were going to be in California at the same time, he was coming from Boulder and I was coming from Washington and we met, same train. So at one point we got to Ogden, Utah, and we had a long layover there [20:00], 45 minutes or an hour. My brother says, "Why don't we get off and walk around and see the town a little bit," and so we did. We walked around, and toward the end of the walk he said, "You know, I've got a bit of a headache. I think I'll run into a drugstore and get some aspirin." He said, "Why don't you go on, and I'll meet you on the train?" So I did. I get on the train and my brother comes back and we're sitting in the lounge car, and a few minutes after the

train started, an MP, military police, comes through. He comes over to me and he said, "Come with me." SNAFU number 406. I thought, "Wait a minute, you know. This isn't funny," an MP. So [21:00] I went with him, we went out in the vestibule of the coach, the car, and he said, "You were seen in Ogden in civilian clothes." Now, you know in wartime if you are in the Army and you've changed to civilian clothes, that is prima facie evidence of desertion, and desertion in wartime is punishable by death. So when he said that to me, I was speechless. I said, "I've been in this uniform since August of this year." I said, "I don't know what you're talking about." He said, "Well, you were seen there," and he said, "I'm going to have to take you into custody." I said, "Wait a minute. I mean -- I just -- I was in this uniform." And then suddenly a light went on. I said, "Come with me, would you, please [22:00]? Would you please come with me?" And we went back into the lounge car, and I said, "Take a look at that guy. Who does he look like?" He said, "Oh, boy, he looks a lot like you do." I said, "That's what happened." I told him about how my brother and I had gotten off, we got separated, I come on the train. Somebody had seen him, and had reported it, and that was it. So he, of all things, an MP for once laughed. He thought it was pretty funny.

BB: And that brings an important point. That's because your brother's training in Boulder --

GS: Didn't require a uniform.

BB: -- didn't require uniforms.

GS: Absolutely.

BB: Even though he was in the Navy at this point.

GS: Absolutely, yes. He was definitely in the Navy. So that story came to my mind.

VS: Super. That is a good story.

BB: To get back a little bit, just to touch upon a few last [23:00] things with your training up in Minnesota at Camp Savage [23:09]. You had mentioned you were -- again, your group of -- excuse me, Japanese language specialists, was this the same group who had been at Ann Arbor [23:19]?

GS: Oh, yes. Our whole class just moved to --

BB: So the whole class moved up, so it was still at this point about 125 men?

GS: About that many, I would say. I don't remember exactly. Incidentally, for a short period after Camp Savage [23:38], they transferred us, not the Nisei [23:43], but our class, I think, was transferred to Fort Snelling [23:47]. You've heard of Snelling? It's also near Minneapolis.

BB: We'll get to that in just one second [24:00], because I'd like to talk a little bit about Fort Snelling as well. At Savage [24:04], again, there were Nisei [24:07] being trained there as well?

GS: Oh, yes.

BB: Do you know what they were being -- presumably they already spoke the language, or do you know if this was a language refresher for them as well?

GS: That's what it was; it was a refresher. My impression was, yes, there were a few Nisei who spoke the language quite fluently. They weren't Nisei incidentally; they were Issei, probably. Issei is first generation, Nisei [24:30] second, Sansei is third. No, they required some training, not so much in the spoken language but in the written language. Some of them were almost -- you know, were not much further advanced than we were in the written language. So that was what they were doing. Incidentally, at Savage [25:00] we put on our show for the Nisei [25:03], and they got quite a kick out of it.

BB: So when you were done at Savage, is that when you were commissioned to second lieutenant, or did that happen later?

GS: No, no, that happened -- let me see. Did it happen at Savage or Snelling? I can't remember the timing. It may have been at Savage [25:25]. Anyway, it was either one of the two places.

BB: So this would have been late 1944 at this point?

GS: This would've been -- this would've been -- let's see, 22 -- no, it would have been the end of '43, 20 months from January 1st of 1942.

BB: I thought it was January 1st of 1943.

GS: Wait a minute. Let me think.

BB: Because you were at 11 --

GS: Let me [26:00] -- I think you're right. Let's see. Yes, it would be '43, and so 10 months into '44 would be about October, November, yes, '44.

BB: Okay. And then at that point, you were transferred to Snelling [26:23]?

GS: Well, yes, but that was relatively brief at Snelling. I don't recall that we had any Japanese training there. It was sort of a holding place where they decided where they wanted to attach us and where we were going to go.

VS: Maybe that's where they commissioned you as an officer?

GS: It may be. It may be that they did it there. I don't remember. There or at Savage [26:46].

VS: You may have addressed this. Did you ever wind up doing basic training?

GS: It was incorporated into our training both at Michigan [26:57] and at Camp Savage. We had extended [27:00] basic training, you might say. They were trying to give us a little

bit of training as infantry men, as administration. It was interesting, we -- oh boy. We wore the insignia of the quartermaster, supposedly so people wouldn't know we were in the Intelligence Service. The Intelligence Service symbol was some kind of a sphinx, I think, and we were not allowed to wear it during wartime, because, one thing, if you were captured, they would know we were intelligence and they would interrogate us accordingly. When we came on the campus, the colonel in charge told us that we were not allowed to tell anybody what we were studying, and he said [28:00] -- so somebody asked him, "Well, what do we tell them?" And he said, "Tell them anything." And if I'm not mistaken, he even used the word "lie." He said, "Lie," but he didn't tell us how to lie. So each one of us was sort of left to his own devices to figure out what we were going to tell people. I met Rita at Ann Arbor [28:25]. That's where I met her. I was not supposed to tell her anything about, and if she asked me -- did you ask me? What did I tell you? Did I ever tell you?

RS: A quartermaster.

GS: Quartermaster or something like that, yes.

RS: He's the best secret keeper in the world.

BB: Did you know he was learning Japanese?

RS: Well, I knew that, and I knew about the show because they put on the show, and in Michigan [28:54] they were quite obvious, but this thing struck me [29:00] as a bolt of lightning. I never heard of such a thing. What is this?

GS: No, I never discussed this with her -- 1142.

VS: So when did you find out about this? Just recently?

GS: Yes, I think we found out about it -- we were watching television one day, and all of a

sudden on a news program or something they said something about a super-secret place has been declassified, and immediately I thought this might be. You know there were a lot of other places that were probably super secret. Then they started talking about what went on there. I said, "That's 1142 [29:39]." So they say they've been declassified. So I immediately told Rita. I'd held the secret for 60 years or so.

RS: He's always stop and say, "Well, I was sworn to secrecy and could never tell you about that." For how many years? Sixty years [30:00].

GS: Yes. So that's the way I came to tell her and tell my family and so on what went on. I thought the whole thing was sort of funny. As I say, representative it was a prime example of SNAFU. I've been interested in this problem, by the way, because since my career has been primarily in teaching management and in working as a manager for 20 years in the electronics industry, and so the questions of how you -- you know, what you share with your employees and how you build credibility with them, and also how you avoid these kinds of mistakes which happen all the time in industry, I can tell you. So it had a double meaning for me [31:00], a double interest.

BB: But had you told your family that you had worked with Japanese documents?

GS: Oh, I was going to comment on that. No, we weren't allowed to tell anybody anything about Japanese. But here was the ridiculous -- I hate to keep saying this, but this, again, is the Army. We were told to lie, not to -- you know. And every night we would go to the library and study. Now, students like Rita and other people would be wandering around the library. Now, we had our books open and sort of spread out. Anybody with half a brain passing by could see we were studying either Chinese or Japanese. Now, how can you -- I mean virtually everybody on the campus, I think, knew [32:00] that we

were studying Japanese after a while, I'd say the first three months.

(End of Tape 2A)

(Beginning of Tape 2B)

RS: -- graduate library in back of the beautiful rack room [spelled phonetically] building.

GS: But they came to know what we were doing on the campus, and then the show showed them what we were doing [unintelligible].

BB: So the secret was out?

GS: The secret was out.

BB: But your family -- after World War II, did you tell Rita and the rest of your family that you had worked with Japanese documents during World War II [00:27]?

GS: I think the only thing that I ever said to you was that I was a translator. Did I say that or not? I may not even have said that. Because, there again, that was verboten, you know. You couldn't talk about intelligence work.

RS: Except when you went to -- overseas. He was in a special office building in Hawaii [01:00] working for the Navy.

GS: But I don't think I ever told you what I was doing with the Navy yet. Come in. This is Dee, my wife's caregiver.

BB: Hi there.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Good, thanks.

BB: We can pause it real quick and explain what we're doing.

GS: Yes.

[audio break]

BB: Let's see, I think we were just finishing up talking a little bit about the secrecy of what



you did tell folks and what you didn't tell folks.

GS: That's right. But the secret was out. I mean, in Michigan [01:34] they knew we were Japanese -- studying Japanese, and they could put two and two together and figure we were probably going to be in intelligence work. So Rita knew that, but beyond that, she never knew really what I did overseas, and she, of course, didn't know anything about 1142 [01:58]. She knew that I was someplace [02:00] outside of Washington that I just couldn't discuss with her.

BB: So that we don't cut into your dinnertime, let's move on a little bit.

GS: Don't worry about that. That's all right.

BB: One thing I wanted to ask, the last clarification question, would you consider what you were doing at Savage [02:23] and in Michigan, would you consider that part of OCS [Office Candidate School] [02:26]?

GS: Yes, oh, definitely. It was a very extended OCS, just like it was a very extended basic training. In those 20 months we covered a lot of ground. Never any -- interesting that you asked me. I never quite thought about that. No intelligence. Maybe some of the other people you'll talk to, if you talk to any of the Japanese group, might have some different answer.

BB: So from Fort Snelling [03:00] then what happened?

GS: I was sent overseas to Pearl Harbor [03:07] where Admiral [Chester] Nimitz [03:10], who was the head of all the forces in the Pacific, except those under [Douglas] MacArthur [03:22], he had a staff. It was called a Joint Intelligence Staff [03:30], JICPOA, and JICPOA was made up of Navy officers -- linguists. Some were these Navy guys, like my brother -- he was not there; he was doing something else -- people like myself, Army

officers; there were people from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, maybe some from England [04:00]. They were all together on Nimitz's [04:02] staff, and they were broken down into groups working on different things. My work there until late in the war was nothing, you know, special. I translated some things, diaries and things like that, and I don't know how valuable they were. But at one point, Nimitz decided that -- first of all, no Japanese, American Japanese, were allowed at Pearl Harbor [04:39]. They weren't allowed on the base, even though they were military personnel. But Nimitz [04:46] was smart enough to understand that these people had a lot to offer in the way of translating and whatever else. And so they decided to set up [05:00] the joint -- JICPOA [05:02], it was called, decided to set up a special unit in Honolulu where the Nisei [05:10] could come in and translate and do whatever intelligence work was needed. Now, they thought about this for 10 seconds, and said that they thought an Army officer ought to be in charge of this group. So I was appointed to go down there. Now, this was considered sort of almost like exile, in a way, because the real core work was being done at Pearl [05:42], and everybody thought this unit that was set up was, you know, just, "Oh, well, they'll do some work down there." It was set up on the second floor over a furniture store, and it had a back entrance, with the idea that the team [06:00] of about a dozen Nisei [06:02] that I had would come in and go through the back and come up there. Now, here again, this is the way the military thinks. Can you imagine every morning at about 8:00 a bunch of Nisei soldiers going behind this building? I mean, if there were any Japanese spies in Honolulu, they would have been stupid not to be able to put two and two together. "What are these guys -- every morning they go to the back of the building." So we did some little more valuable translation, that one, because these guys -

- Nimitz's [06:43] idea was to get these guys involved because he recognized that they might be -- first of all, they know the country probably better, and also they were probably more proficient in the language. So we did some important work [07:00]. One day I received notice that my group down there was to undertake a special project, and that special project was to provide intelligence to the B-29 bomber squadrons out on Guam that were bombing -- they were doing saturation bombing of Japan. They would send hundreds of planes, and they would just indiscriminately drop -- you know, when I look back on that, we make a big fuss about killing civilians, but I mean, do you know that more civilians were killed in Tokyo by these fire bombings and so forth than in Hiroshima [07:53]?

BB: Sure, a lot more.

GS: Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined, in fact, I think.

BB: Yes.

GS: So [08:00] anyway, they would pick a town that had important military targets. Military targets were not just any kind of military base, but important companies, manufacturing, like Mitsubishi and others at the time, Mitsui. And so our assignment was to go through the materials that they would refer to us, and this included, by the way, not only letters and these diaries, but Japanese magazines. They were so -- as I said before -- so lax with security up until almost the last few months of the war, when it suddenly dawned on them that something was going on here, that the [09:00] -- they were so lax, that even in magazines they would print information that was of value. They'd have a news story or something, and it would really tell us, you know, what was going on. So my team and I were supposed to translate this stuff, put it into good English -- useable form. It was to

be sent out to Guam on day one when we finished translating. Guam would decide what targets they wanted -- oh, I forgot to mention. They would give us a list, every -- I think it was almost every third or fourth day -- of 10 cities, some a little larger, some a little smaller, and we were to provide them with the important installations [10:00] there, if they were military or particularly manufacturing and whatever. So on day one, they would send us this list of 10. I would take it and we'd divide it up among our team, and they would look for these things in the materials we had. We would take that material, send it to Guam, and they would study it the second day and decide what they were going to do. On the third day, they would bomb, and at the end of that day, we would get a report as to what had been bombed. Part of that was so we wouldn't duplicate stuff later on. Anyway, this routine went on for weeks on end, and it became so important that one day the commander of the unit up in JICPOA [10:55] in Pearl Harbor [10:56] called me in and said that [11:00] we were going to -- they were going to expand my group so it was three times the size that it was. Instead of 12, I had 35, 36 people, because they considered it so valuable. What they did was, they sent down there to my place, my office a number of the Navy officers and a number of the Army officers. I had a major from the Marines working under my direction. I mean, I raised this question, I said, "I'm just a lieutenant. What can I do with these people you're sending down?" They said to me, "You tell them what to do because you know more about this project than anybody. You've been doing it now for months." So I had these 36 people, and we went to a two-shift regimen. We -- and [12:00] I knew that I knew most about how this thing was supposed to work, so I was actually working just about two shifts every day, about 16 hours, but it was exciting, you know. We would see the results. It's pretty hard to do

that, to see the results of your work in a few days. An interesting sidelight was what they would do in addition to bombing, is Nimitz [12:35] had a propaganda section. They would print up leaflets, and they would list these 10 cities. They would say, "Look, we're going to bomb three of these cities tomorrow." They would tell them. Well, you see what this would mean. It would mean 10 cities would have to get ready for possible bombing, and that was a serious diversion of military people and others involved. So [13:00] -- and the other thing was, they would drop these leaflets from the planes, and so people would see this and say, "We'd better get out of town." Well, what they did was they got out of town, and they clogged the roads so that they military couldn't move easily throughout the country. So it was quite a good idea. Anyway, one day we got the name of Hiroshima [13:33] on one of those lists, and there was no indication that anybody was more important or anything. So we sent them the information, and sure enough, three days later we were just as amazed as anybody. It was just incredible. Incidentally, one of the things about this whole business with the Nisei [13:55] was, a number of my men had relatives living in the cities [14:00] that we were giving target information about, and I never had any reason to doubt their loyalty. In fact, they would work harder, it seemed, every time. But could you imagine if you knew you had an uncle and aunt or someone in this city that was going to be bombed? And they did a great job. I just really admired them, and they were very loyal. So that's what I did there. When the war was over -- I don't know whether you want me to go on from there.

BB: Sure. Can we go back up and just ask a few questions right now?

GS: Yes, sure.

BB: And then once we ask these questions, we'll move on to the end of the war. First, this

was all under JICPOA [14:47] this whole time?

GS: All of this was under JICPOA.

BB: What did the letters JICPOA stand for?

GS: Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Areas [14:57]. Nimitz [15:00] was commander. He was called CICPOA, which was Commander-in-Chief Pacific Ocean Areas, and CINCPAC, which was Commander-in-Chief Pacific. I don't know why they made a division in his title, but that was his title. MacArthur [15:24], I'm not exactly sure how that worked because -- well, clearly these two people had control over everything. In fact, by the way, they were quite -- I want to be careful. What words -- they were bitter rivals in a way. I wouldn't say bitter. They were certainly rivals, and everybody at Pearl Harbor [15:55] knew that. Sometimes when MacArthur [15:58] would do something, they would, you know [16:00], say, "Well, there's old Mac, you know he's looking for" -- they used to think he was a publicity hound. Do you remember the picture of him coming ashore in the Philippines? Well, you know, that was sort of staged, and they said, "Oh, that's Mac for you," you know.

BB: So, again, to make sure we summarize this correctly, for a period of time, several months, you were primarily supervising Nisei [16:28] who were looking at captured documents, like diaries and things like that?

GS: Diaries, even magazines. As I say, it was amazing what we could find out. I mean, sometimes in a magazine there might be something like they'd be talking about the Mitsubishi factory, aircraft factory, and it would say, "In spite of the fact that the Mitsubishi factory was 20 percent destroyed by bombing attack by such-and-such, so-and-so [17:00]," well, that was important information to know that 20 percent of it had

been destroyed, or maybe it would say 80 percent. So we'd know we didn't have to maybe spend so much effort on it. But late in the war, late in the war the Japanese began to wake up and that was -- anyway.

BB: So, your first assignment, what sort of intelligence information were you looking for? This is prior to the bombing mission assignment. What sort of information were you looking for for that first assignment?

GS: We were looking for information to give us any indication of troop movements, of location, of strategies, plans, anything, and also about possible targets for bombing [18:00], and that was just one of the many things. Sometimes in these newspapers or magazines we'd get it would indicate something about the morale in the civilian population. So any little clue, you know, that there was something going on over here, a disturbance of something because they didn't have food or whatever, important information.

BB: And so this first group you were with, they were all Nisei [18:37]? This is where they were going up the back, in the alley, the back door of the store?

GS: That was not the first. The first thing was where I was just one of the officers doing translating. I just did it myself out at Pearl Harbor [18:52].

BB: When you were at Pearl Harbor, there were no Nisei involved because it was a military base?

GS: No, no, they weren't allowed. The Navy wouldn't permit any --

BB: It was only until you got this more bombing [19:00] mission related, that's when you got the Nisei [19:04]?

GS: That was in downtown.

BB: Downtown Honolulu?

GS: Yes.

BB: And then part way into that, the numbers were tripled.

GS: Yes.

BB: But were they all Nisei? It sounds like there were Marine Corps officers and other folks.

GS: Oh, yeah. I'm glad you asked that. I think we got a few more Nisei [19:22], but most of the others were, I believe, officers. As I say, we had, I think, two majors, and I think we had a colonel and lower-ranking officers. I don't remember the makeup, but that's a good question. It certainly wasn't totally Nisei.

VS: Just on the outside chance, do you remember the name of the street that that facility was on and the address?

GS: Yes, I do. Yes, I do. It's a famous street, Kapiolani Boulevard [19:57].

VS: Could you spell that?

GS: Yes, K-A-P-I [20:00] O-L-A-N-I, Kapiolani Boulevard.

VS: Do you remember the name of the furniture store?

GS: No.

VS: Do you remember the address, by chance?

GS: I don't think so.

VS: Was it the main part of downtown?

GS: Yes, Kapiolani [20:15] is a big boulevard where there are a lot of businesses and so on, and I don't know, just off the top of my head I would say it was about the middle of wherever -- you know, extended this way and this way. It was somewhere in the heart of Kapiolani Boulevard.



VS: Was there a landmark that was close by that you can recall that might help to locate it?

Were you two blocks from the beach?

GS: Yes, it was a short distance from the beach, but I don't remember what part of the beach.

I'm afraid [21:00] I can't tell you, but I remember that place.

VS: That's okay. I'd like to find the building and take a picture and send it to you.

GS: Oh, if you do, please do. That would be a fond memory. I remember Kapiolani

Boulevard [21:17] as if it was yesterday. I mean, we'd go trooping in and out of there, supposedly in secret.

BB: Any other questions related to Hawaii itself?

VS: By chance, the propaganda that was sent out, did you have a role in producing that, or did you only review it and translate it into Japanese? What was your role with the propaganda?

GS: My unit and I had nothing to do with preparing these propaganda leaflets. Nimitz [21:49] had a propaganda staff, and as a matter of fact, it was headed up by a friend of mine, an Army officer with whom I had studied Japanese at Stanford, of all things, name was [22:00] Bill Vatcher [spelled phonetically]. Bill had a team like I did, except his team was made up of officers and they prepared these propaganda leaflets. I think he may have even had a few white noncoms or something like that, who knew something about propaganda generally, not just the Japanese. But yeah, I had nothing to do with that; at least I was not aware of it. He may have -- I don't know, when our reports were sent in, he may have asked for copies so that he could -- but he never asked me for them. These leaflets are very, very interesting, and I imagine quite valuable, because there were [23:00] maybe 100 or 200 of them printed up, different ones, each one listing 10 cities,

sometimes duplicating the cities. They were about, I would say, five-by-eight or something like that, and they would just drop them off. They would always carry a picture of the B-29s dropping bombs; it would really instill fear. When the war was over, I was in Bill's [23:33] office one day, we were talking about, "Well, you know, what are we going to do after the war," and so on, chitchatting. He said, "By the way, "I've made up scrapbooks of these propaganda leaflets, one on each page with an explanation," so on, and so on. And he said, "I gave one to Admiral Nimitz [23:56] and one to the other top officers and so on. How would you like one [24:00]? I have some extra ones." I said, "Hey, I'd be happy to have one." So I had it, took it home, and it just sat there, because I didn't have any reason after the war to do research. I was going to Stanford Business School. So one day I decided that this would be of value to some scholars. The Hoover Library at Stanford -- it's called the Hoover Library of War, Revolution and Peace, and it has an enormous amount of information about wars and so forth. So I donated it to them, and I kept a few of the leaflets. I have them. The thing that I regret is that it didn't occur to me at the time that I should have taken out the leaflet that [25:00] referred to Hiroshima [25:02]. That would be very valuable, because I doubt that anywhere this exists. Bill [25:12] gave these out to Nimitz [25:15] and these other people. And you know, how much of that stuff was retained and how much was tossed out after the war was over, I don't know.

VS: Is it accessible that we could take a photograph of them?

GS: Yes, I would have to hunt them up. One of Rita's pet peeves is that I got this stuff put away, and you have to dig down a mile to get it, but I could try to do that.

VS: We'll give you a homework assignment, if it's something you can do.

BB: Yes, even if it's not tonight, if there's a chance at some point for us to just get a copy of what one looks like, that would be pretty valuable.

GS: Yes, sure.

VS: And you talked about a letter from your brother. He sent it to you addressed to 1142 [25:52]?

GS: Yes.

VS: Do you have that?

GS: Do I have any letters for 1142? I'll tell you where they would be [26:00], I think. I doubt that he kept them. Maybe he did. I could ask him. But my parents had them, and I know up to a point they had saved them, not just 1142 [26:14], but my wartime letters. Well, you're really asking for something for me to go into all that stuff. I would love to do it for my own interest, but --

VS: Brandon has been able to capture them from a couple of other veterans, and they just have some really interesting information in them.

GS: The letters, you mean, from 1142 [26:38]?

BB: Just letters, you know, written from -- and to what great efforts a lot of the folks went to, not to mention what was going on there.

GS: Yes, right. Well, I'm sure I did some of the same things. I'll keep it mind. I have my old Army footlocker in the garage, you know, with stuff in there [27:00]. I have a box in my office, a great big carton with stuff. I probably should have gone through it a long time ago, you know.

VS: Don't throw it away. I mean, if it gets to that point, we're trying to develop a museum and put things on exhibit, and those are the kinds of things that the public would love.

GS: Oh, I'm sure, that would be of great -- people were totally unaware. You could ask 10,000 people today down on the street, "Did you ever realize that this?" and not one of them would know.

VS: Do you have any photos of yourself from the war period? A group of you and the Nisei [27:39]?

GS: I have some pictures of when I was in the war, but -- oh, wait a minute. I used to have a group -- I used to have a group picture of all of us. Incidentally, I [28:00] had this sergeant who was in charge of the Nisei on my team, he was a very skilled cartoonist, and he used to draw cartoons that depicted our work. The name of our group, we came to be called the Factory File [28:25], because we had information about, you know, primary factories, Factory File. And Sergeant Oka [28:39], my sergeant, drew some very good cartoons. There again, they're buried in there. I'd be glad to show them to you if I had them, but I'll see if I can get them out and make copies.

BB: That would be outstanding.

VS: That would be so nice.

GS: But he was very, very good. Incidentally, he did a great deal for the morale of my unit [29:00]. I mean, when you consider these guys were possibly laying the basis for bombing relatives homes, he managed to keep them focused and understanding of what was going on, had a very good sense of humor, and I was very lucky to have him.

VS: One other question. You brought up the magic number of 36, and we had come upon some information that talked about a group -- it was either 18 or 36 Japanese American women that were at this Camp Ritchie [29:35], and their job was to translate Japanese documents. Now, did you know of any women that were involved in translation?

GS: No, I didn't. The only women, Japanese women involved in my career in the Army were -- a number of the teachers at Michigan [29:56] were women. They [30:00] were -- as a matter of fact, they were some of the best teachers at Ann Arbor.

BB: Were they Anglo or were they --

GS: No, they were Nisei [30:08], themselves, yes. One that I remember in particular was a graduate of Berkeley, very, very nice person, very intelligent, spoke English perfectly, but she also knew Japanese perfectly. And then there was an older woman, who must have been an Issei [time], she must have been in her 60s at least, and we all liked her very much. She was very competent, and a very nice person. Those are the only two women that I'm aware of in the program.

VS: Okay. We're coming to an end probably in about a minute or two.

BB: Yeah, we're at the end of this tape, so we'll go ahead and stop this, and we might just ask a few more follow-up questions, and then we'll let you -- I know you've got dinner getting ready and everything.

GS: Don't worry about it.

BB: In fact, I'll [31:00] turn this light off, although it may be quite dark in here once I turn this off. Just give your eyes a break.

GS: Okay.

BB: This probably isn't something that you can comment on, but one of the things we've been interested in a little bit is the communication that went on between the Germans and the Japanese during the war.

GS: Oh, yes.

VS: Did you ever have any discussion about that?

BB: And if the answer is yes, we should get it on tape.

GS: Seems to me -- yeah, I recall something about that. I can't remember quite -- I can't quite remember what it was about, but all I can say is I seemed to be aware that there was some concern, some discussion about that, that's all. I can't shed any light on it [32:00]. Did you find some other evidence of that?

VS: Yes, some powerful evidence.

GS: Yes, it could certainly have happened. There was this guy in the German Embassy, I think, in Tokyo--

(End of Tape 2B)

(Beginning of Tape 3A)

BB: This is the third in a series of interviews for the Fort Hunt Oral History Project for the National Park Service. We are here at the home of Rita and Gerald Stoner in Saratoga, California. Today is February 12, 2008. This is Brandon Bies, as well as Vincent Santucci, of the National Park Service, and we're going to wrap up our questioning here. During the break, Mr. Stoner, we were just talking a little bit about communication between the Japanese and the Germans. I know you said you didn't remember a lot of details, but could you just again repeat or mention a little bit about what you might have understood about that communication?

GS: The only real -- the only thing I recollect about that is that there was a German diplomat in Tokyo during the war who played a very important role. At the moment, I'm not sure whether [01:00] he played a role in cooperating with the Japanese or whether he was a spy. I think he was called a spy. I don't know who he was a spy for, but I can imagine that it could have been for the Germans, of course, or could have been an Allied spy, but

I don't think he was. Anyway, that's all I remember about it.

BB: Got you. To keep on going with our chronology, before we go back and ask some more specific questions, could you describe what happened when the war ended? How did your role change?

GS: Well, when the war ended -- let me just say, just before the war ended, the Allies decided that it was going to be necessary to make a frontal attack on the Japanese islands, an all-out attack, and they decided to make some [02:00] assignments in advance for those of us at the headquarters, the Nimitz [02:08] headquarters, because they felt they weren't going to need us there anymore. It was going to be, they needed us at the front lines. So they assigned each of us to one of the attacking units, and I was assigned to, I think, the First or the Fourth Marine Division. Now, as you know, the Marines are the first ones in. They go in in the beach. I wasn't very -- I didn't feel very good about that, but I mean, this is the way things panned out. So I actually received orders that at some point in the near future I would report to the Fourth Marine or First Marine Division. That division was supposed to attack the southern island of Kyushu. The main island is Honshu, as you may know [03:00], but Kyushu had a number of important military industrial installations, and I was to be attached to them. Fortunately, the war was over before that became necessary. Interestingly enough -- well, this gets into after the war. I'll talk about that later. But anyway, I didn't have to do that, but they assigned me to something different. President [Franklin D.] Roosevelt had set up a study group called the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey [03:46], and its first assignment, after the war was over in Europe, was to study the effects of the strategic bombing of Germany. Maybe you've heard of [04:00] this study. I don't know. It was actually headed by a civilian, Franklin

D'Olier [04:09], who had been head of either Metropolitan or Prudential Life Insurance, of all things. So when the war was over in Japan, they decided to do a similar study of the strategic bombing, the effects of it, and they had a unit called the Economic Effects Division of the Strategic Bombing Survey [04:31]. It was the job of that group to determine what effect the bombing had on Japan's economy and how that affected the war effort. So I was assigned in Honolulu to go to do this Strategic Bombing Survey [04:59] in the so-called [05:00] Economic Effects Division. They had different parts of the study. Some studied the civil government, some studied the effects on culture and on life and so on. I was a part of the Economics Effects Division. It was headed by John Kenneth Galbraith [05:22]. Did you ever hear of him?

VS: If it's the Galbraith from Pennsylvania.

GS: Pennsylvania?

VS: The Galbraiths actually owned the Pittsburgh Pirates for a while. It was a famous family.

GS: Maybe they're related, but John Kenneth Galbraith [05:37] was at the time one of the most famous economists, economics professors at Harvard, and he has written a number of very well-known economics books. But anyway, he was the head of it, and there were other interesting people that I got to associate with, which I found very interesting [06:00]. Our job was to go around Japan and look for information at government offices, companies, whatever, to tell us something about what the impact was on their operations or activities and so on. And they gave us -- the Strategic Bombing Survey [06:26] gave us a card which was written in four languages that we were to be given the right to go anywhere we wanted in Japan, into any building, into any company, and demand information. The four languages, of course, were Japanese, English, Chinese -- because



the Chinese were involved in this -- and Russian, because remember, Russia came in late in the war [07:00] and was a part of the whole business there for a time. So we went around, primarily in the Tokyo area, as you might imagine, but we also got down to the area of Kyoto and Osaka, which was very important in the industrial potential of Japan. When we finished our work in Japan, we were sent back to the United States to a place called Gravelly Point, Virginia [07:44]. Did you ever hear of it?

VS: Yes.

GS: You have?

VS: Yes.

BB: If it's the same place that we're thinking of. Could you describe where it was?

GS: Well, it was outside of Washington a bit. I don't know, in Virginia.

VS: Along the Potomac River?

GS: What's that?

VS: Along the Potomac River?

GS: I think so, yes. So that's where [08:00] the Strategic Bombing Survey set up its headquarters, and that's where I spent six months. We got back -- we were in Japan about three months, and came back to Gravelly Point [08:17] about January of '46, and by June we were through.

BB: So you were at Gravelly Point for how long then?

GS: About six months, yes. That wasn't such bad duty because we were close to Washington and we had opportunities to enjoy things there. But Gravelly Point [08:43] was where this thing was --

BB: How many people were there? This was the office for the entire --

GS: Yes, the whole project moved to Gravelly Point, as far as I know.

[inaudible commentary]

GS: [09:00] Go ahead.

BB: No, I'm just going to ask you if you could describe a little bit more of -- was this a military post?

GS: I had the impression that this was some kind of an office building that they just turned over to the Bombing Survey [09:16] to finish its work. That's all I was aware of.

BB: Do you remember if it was near the airport?

VS: Were they building the airport?

GS: It may have been. My recollection is it was just over the border, like, of Virginia and Washington, and it was not too far from the airport.

BB: Near the Pentagon?

GS: The Pentagon [09:40] didn't exist then.

BB: By the end of the war, the Pentagon had been built.

GS: Oh, it was?

BB: Yes.

GS: Then I don't recall seeing the Pentagon. At least I'm not aware of it, that it was nearby. But it was the whole unit, as I recall, that came back, because they turned over an entire ship [10:00] to the Strategic Bombing Survey [10:02], and we lived on the ship when we were doing the study in Tokyo. It was in Yokohama Harbor, and we would go there every day, go back and forth from our work. So this entire shipload of people came to San Francisco, and then from there we went by train to Washington. Is there something about Gravelly Point [10:29]?

BB: Well, very much so. That's also part of our park.

GS: Oh, it is.

VS: Let me get you a map.

BB: I'm going to keep asking some questions while Vince gets one of our park brochures, which has a map. The reason that we're very interested in this is we have never ever heard this before, and this is -- if it's the same Gravelly Point [10:54], it's right in the middle of our park. Our park extends from all the way down the length of the Potomac River [11:00] from Great Falls all the way down to Mount Vernon. So pretty much everything in between, with a few exceptions, is National Park Service. That's why we're -- that's Fort Hunt [11:12], P.O. Box 1142, that's National Park. Well, there's a very popular area known as Gravelly Point [11:21] right there. It's as soon as you cross the bridge from Washington.

GS: Yes.

BB: It's right there at the end of the --

GS: That's my recollection, and the chances are it's the only Gravelly Point in the area.

BB: Sure.

RS: That's a funny name.

BB: Yes, it is.

GS: I was stationed there. You may have heard me talk about Gravelly Point [11:44] when we lived in Washington. I think we may have even gone out there to see it or something. I don't know. Incidentally, we did take a drive down the -- what's the freeway?

BB: The George Washington Memorial Parkway [12:00].

GS: Yes, and I think I may have said to my wife as we were driving along there, "Somewhere

along in here is where I was once stationed.”

BB: And you didn't get any more specific than that?

GS: No, I still didn't feel it was --

VS: Now, if you can see that or not, I circled this point right here. What does that say?

GS: Gravelly Point [12:24].

VS: That's part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

GS: It must be. I mean, I can't remember precisely where it was, but it sounds like it was in the same place, and the same name. I mean, I don't think it would -- is there sort of a big office building there that you know of?

BB: And that's why we're so awestruck. There's nothing there except a flat, grassy set of ball fields, parking lots. There's no -- but there may have been.

VS: We have wonderful air photos from that period of time because they were going to construct [13:00] Reagan Airport there, and so we should be able to look on this old air photos and see if there was a building there. If that's the case, that's really interesting news for us.

GS: Because it would be part of your park.

BB: Yes, which would mean yet another World War II [13:15] intelligence --

VS: That means we have to put up a new education sign for the public about the story that we didn't know that you told us.

GS: Okay.

BB: That's fantastic. So, again, to repeat a couple of questions, do you remember there being one building or a whole slew of buildings here at Gravelly Point [13:35]?

GS: I remember just one.

BB: But large enough to hold a sizable number of people?

GS: That's my recollection. I mean, if you asked me to tell you what the building looked like at this point -- and remember, 60 years ago or more -- I would say that it was a typical office building about three or four stories or something like that [14:00]. You know, just an ordinary -- or it could have been different. My memory of that long --

BB: We may have to do some research on our end, and then call you back with some more specific -- we weren't prepared for this, and again, you've told us a slew of really interesting things, but to discover that our park could have had yet another important role during World War II [14:29] is fairly gratifying, to say the least.

GS: Well, good. I'm glad that --

BB: So, wow, so again, were you mustered out once you were done at Gravelly Point [14:42]? Was that the end of your --

GS: Yes, I was --

RS: In Washington, D.C.

GS: I guess I [15:00] was mustered out, because here's what happened. Rita and I had been corresponding, and we decided to get married when I came home. I'd been going back and forth from Gravelly Point [15:21], Washington, in other words, to Pittsburgh to see Rita on the weekends, and in June the Strategic Bombing Survey [15:34], I believe, ended its work, turned in the final report. Rita and I decided to be married in June. Well, when the work at Gravelly Point [15:51] ended, I was discharged from the service and then we got married in June [16:00]. As a matter of fact, I still wore my uniform. I had no other clothes, and I was married in my officer's uniform. Then we went to Pittsburgh to see your parents? Anyway, we did some things for a period of time, and then in

September we went out to Stanford for me to start my education there.

BB: What rank did you -- was your final rank in the military?

GS: I hadn't risen that much. I was a second lieutenant when I was commissioned, of course, and I came out as a first lieutenant.

BB: Got you, okay. We'd like to go back in our last few minutes or so here and touch upon two things. I want to ask so more questions related to Fort Hunt [16:56]. After all, that's the main reason we're here. We have a few questions there [17:00], but also wanted to talk a little bit about your brother and his experience in the Navy. You mentioned -- he's still living?

GS: Yes. He's -- how old is he? Ninety-four?

RS: Ninety-three.

GS: Ninety-three, yes. He gets around only on a walker -- in a wheelchair.

RS: He doesn't talk very much about anything.

GS: He would answer some questions, I suppose, but he essentially listens. He doesn't talk too much. But maybe I can help you with some of the things about --

BB: Does he live in this area?

GS: He lives in Los Gatos, yeah, five miles away.

BB: Could you summarize, from what you know, what exactly -- again, since he was in Japanese language training with the Navy down in Boulder, what did he [18:00] end up doing during the war?

GS: Well, that's another very interesting story. He was assigned to Washington. There was a special unit there that was charged with basically breaking the Japanese code. You may have heard about that. That was an exceedingly difficult job because to break a code

even in English letters, you know, is very difficult, but to do this with a language that is so differently written, it's almost amazing they could do it, but they did it. As you may know, as a result, they intercepted the messages of that big fleet of Japanese ships at Midway [19:00], and because they had done that, they were prepared for them and they sunk three Japanese aircraft carriers, whatever it was. So he was involved in some pretty important work. Their unit was located at a girls' school, I suppose for the same reasons that -- the furniture place in Hawaii.

BB: This was a girls' school in Washington?

GS: Yes.

BB: Do you recall the name of it?

GS: I used to know that. If I'm not mistaken, it was a Catholic school, a Catholic girls' school. I'm not sure.

BB: You don't know -- was it called the Madeira School?

GS: No, I don't think so. I could ask my brother.

BB: If you have a chance to ask him, that would be interesting.

GS: Anyway, he -- so he was stationed there during the war [20:00], and he met his wife -- was it in Washington or New York? Maybe it was a trip to New York from Washington he met his wife. They were married six months before we were, in January.

BB: Did he remain in Washington for the whole war, or did he go overseas?

GS: Well, after he left Boulder, he was assigned to Washington and he stayed there till the war was over. Oh, excuse me, yeah, until after the war was over. When the war was over, they didn't immediately discharge him. He was assigned to the naval contract office in New York, because he had -- yeah, he had his law degree already [21:00]. So he

was assigned to this, I don't know, contract office in New York.

BB: Do you know if he ever did any work with prisoners at all or just --

GS: I'm quite sure he didn't. I'm quite sure that what he did was this drudgery to try to --

BB: The code breaking.

GS: -- decode things and to, you know, --

VS: I'm curious if he would know who [Taizo] Sakai [21:26] is. We just met a gentleman whose father was a Marine officer at Iwo Jima, where very few Japanese surrendered, but this person was apparently a communications code person for Kuribayashi, and he actually surrendered and he was treated as a VIP prisoner because he knew Japanese code. So he was sent to Washington.

GS: Oh, is that so?

BB: He was sent to 1142 [21:58].

GS: Really?

BB: At the end [22:00], again, many years after you were there.

VS: I just wonder if your brother would know that name, because he stood out.

GS: I never talked to my brother about 1142 [22:11]. He's always been rather reluctant to talk about his activities.

RS: It's just kind of sad. He doesn't like to talk about the past.

GS: Yeah, I don't know. There was one thing that kept him going in this hard work that he did on the code. My brother loves to do landscaping. He loves the landscape ability or something like that. He did a school in Los Gatos, just got the parents together and they worked on weekends. Anyway, when he was in Washington at this school -- let me think. Is there a school there called Marymount [23:00]?



VS: In Maryland?

BB: Yes, there's a Marymount University in Maryland, but I don't know that there is right in Washington.

GS: Well, this was in -- it was on Massachusetts and -- well, anyway, I could ask him so you'd know. So he went to the naval officer in charge of the unit. He said, "Look. Would you give me a dozen or so list of personnel? I have an idea that we can beautify this place, put in flowers," and so on. And believe it or not, the guy said, "Well, go ahead. If you can do it, I'll give you the people." So they did that and [24:00] apparently it was a great success, because the commander, or whatever his name, whatever he was, was very pleased. They grew flowers there too. So he would frequently cut these beautiful bouquets of flowers and give them to the commanding officer for his wife, and that sort of lightened up the work that he did there.

BB: Another thing we kind of skipped over a little bit, but you had mentioned that you were at least familiar with Camp Tracy [24:39]?

GS: Just familiar.

BB: At Byron Hot Springs.

GS: Yes.

BB: Can you share anything more than that, anything that you knew about that location?

GS: All I knew was that some of our guys, I believe, were sent there. That's all I knew. I heard they were going there, and I figured, or I knew that it was a prisoner-of-war camp, but that's all. I have no idea.

BB: So [25:00] some of the folks from your interrogation -- excuse me, your language class ended up going to Byron Hot Springs.

GS: That's my understanding, yes.

BB: Okay.

RS: I think he needs to have his dinner now, maybe.

GS: I'm okay. One other thought occurred to me. While you're here, I could play you a tape of the main song in the show that we put on. It's in Glenn Miller style, so I thought you might want to take a few minutes and hear it.

BB: That might be a great way to end things. I think the last thing we want to do, because we realize you guys need to eat dinner and everything, is just ask some last follow-up questions about 1142 [25:59].

GS: Okay, go ahead.

BB: One I would [26:00] have is, is that what you called it? Did you know it as P.O. Box 1142?

GS: Oh, yes, absolutely.

BB: Okay. When you were there, were you at all briefed on what was going on there, or were you kept completely in the dark?

GS: Completely out of it, because they figured I had no purpose there, so why tell me. But I was able to figure it out. Particularly, with the -- as I say, with these German-speaking people, Holocaust survivors and others, and Boesch [26:35] were both German descent. I don't know, it was not that hard to figure out what was going on. I figured there must be interrogation going on there, but I had no idea of who some of the people were, and some of them were pretty high level, and especially later in the war, of course, I guess some of the -- did [Wernher] von Braun [26:58] go through there?

BB: We believe von Braun went [27:00] through there. Almost the entire German rocket

program --

GS: Oh, boy. No kidding. Wow.

BB: -- went through 1142 [27:07], as well as the highest ranking German spies, who were all spying on the Russians, they all went through 1142, and actually went on to work for us, for the CIA. There was high-ranking Japanese ambassador to Germany, Hiroshi Oshima [27:28].

GS: Yes, I've heard that name. Was he the guy who helped some of the Jewish people in Germany to get out? There was one of the Japanese diplomats --

BB: That I'm not sure. I just don't know.

GS: Maybe it wasn't Germany. I don't know. But seemed to me one of them did that.

BB: Some very, very high-ranking folks.

GS: You've certainly uncovered a lot of [28:00] interesting information.

BB: And today has been no exception. When you were at 1142 [28:08], did you ever see any prisoners?

GS: No.

BB: You had a sense that they were there?

GS: Oh, yes, I had a sense, but I didn't know where they were, what they were doing.

BB: You never saw a prisoner compound or anything like that?

GS: No, I was confined to this barracks and to the place where -- I don't remember exactly where the eating, you know, the mess hall was, and that was it. And also the officers' quarters when I was an orderly, they called them.

BB: Did you go in and out of the post very often, or were you pretty much on post for that whole time period?

GS: That whole time I went out of the post once. I got a leave on a weekend. It was either 12 hours or 24 hours, I can't remember [29:00]. I didn't quite know what to do with it. You know, I didn't know anybody in the Washington area. Anyway, it suddenly dawned on me, my brother, when he was at Princeton, had a girlfriend there, and I had met her. I had visited my brother once at Princeton and I met her, and she was a nice person. I think my brother and she still communicated, but I figured, hey, you know, she was good dancer and she knew me, and I figured we could go out and have a good time together. So she lived in Princeton, so I got on the train in Washington and we arranged for her to get on the same train. We went on to New York and we went dancing at the Hotel Lincoln. You know these hotels had [30:00] these big ballrooms. And Harry James was playing. Do you know Harry James?

BB: Absolutely.

GS: And it turned out that my brother's girlfriend had a cousin who played in that orchestra, so it was a fun night. We enjoyed it. But that was the only time I ever was able to get out of [laughs] 1142 [30:32].

BB: Related to that, can you talk at all about the security involved at 1142? Did it strike you as a secure compound, MPs, anything like that?

GS: Well, what struck me was, yes, that, first of all, who would be aware of it driving along that freeway. If my memory is correct, it had this -- it was like an opening in the woods, one- or two-lane -- I don't think it was even two lanes. It was just one lane [31:00]. And so -- and then the fact that nobody shared anything with me. Yes, I was pretty impressed with the security.

VS: Did you notice any fences or guards or MPs?

GS: I never saw guards or fences or anything. I just didn't see that part of the post, you know, the base. I was really pretty confined. When I look back on it, I mean, it was a challenge to just do this and be there, do nothing.

VS: So you don't recall if an MP was posted at the gate where you went in and out?

GS: I'm quite sure that when we went in, at the end of this narrow road, maybe 100 yards of 200 yards, or maybe it was even more than that, I have no idea [32:00], I think there was an MP post possibly there.

VS: And you went through a fence or not?

GS: I don't remember.

VS: Did you know that you were near Mr. Vernon?

(End of Tape 3A)

(Beginning of Tape 3B)

BB: This is close to the end of what we had to ask. Do you feel that there's anything critical that we've left out, that maybe we should have asked you or anything like that?

GS: One thing might be of interest. Our research in this U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey [00:33] showed that the war would have been over within six months, even if we hadn't bombed Nagasaki and Hiroshima [00:46]. The reason for that is that the submarine service of the United States had become so effective late in the war that there were serious shortages of [01:00] materiel and raw materials, oil, rubber, and so on, that the Japanese -- they don't have much on the islands. And also they would send troops out to Manchuria and to -- wherever -- the Philippines and so on, and that shipping was being sunk right and left, and that was not making the newspapers. It was not getting the attention that the bombings were. You know, the bombings were spectacular.

Everybody thought at the end of the war that it was the bombing, including, of course, the atomic ones, that brought Japan to its knees, but it was not the accurate answer. The real answer was that the Japanese were being brought to their knees by this strangulation, and it would have been over in six months. Now, of course, the question is raised, okay, supposing we had gone on for six months. How many American lives would have been taken? How many [02:00] Japanese lives would have been lost? I'm not quite sure; in fact, I have doubts that I would be here tonight, because we would have invaded, and to be in on the beaches with the Marines, that's asking for trouble. One point on that, after we went into Japan, Strategic Bombing Survey [02:23] discovered that the Japanese had set aside over 700 aircraft of all types, and these were to be used exclusively to dive-bomb the beaches when the Marines and other troops landed. So to contemplate that, and I might have been a part of that, you can see why [laughs] I'm thankful to be here.

BB: Last question related to 1142 [02:54], and I'm sorry for switching all over the place.

GS: That's all right.

BB: When you were at 1142, were you in a barracks with [03:00] other staff from 1142?

GS: Yes.

BB: The German-speaking folks?

GS: Yes, that's what gave me the clue. This fellow Marvin Levinthal [03:12], who was in charge of us, he had his bunk there, of course. I got to know -- I may look through this. I got to know some of the guys there, and there were some nice fellows. The -- I forget -- there was -- well, anyway, I can't remember names.

BB: But they never told you what they were doing?

GS: Never.

BB: They were friendly, but they didn't tell you anything?

GS: When you think about it, it was rather amazing, the way that this worked. They just kept their mouths shut. As I say, I figured out that there was something to do with German prisoners there, that these guys were probably interrogating [04:00] them, because there were so many of them that spoke German and with strong German accents.

BB: Did you ever know that they were listening in on prisoner conversations there?

GS: I had no --

BB: So you didn't -- you weren't given -- you didn't see any other facilities or anything?

GS: They kept me in that barracks, and I went to the officers' barracks, and then there was -- I don't know if it was a separate mess hall attached to the barracks. I was really confined. They didn't want to take any chances, I guess, with anybody finding out.

BB: Anything else?

VS: One last bonus question, just because of what you know. Do you recall the invasion on Iwo Jima, and did your office have any role in intelligence for Iwo Jima [05:00]?

GS: No, we had no role there, because our -- we were looking at bombing targets on Honshu, the main island, the industrial areas and so on. Iwo Jima, I know the story about it, you know. But Okinawa was another very difficult place to get. I know on each of these invasions they did have teams of Nisei [05:45] and usually led by an officer from our class. I know in Okinawa a fellow by the name of Milt Zaslo [spelled phonetically], who lives in New York -- no [06:00], no, it was a guy by the name of Manny Goldberg [06:06] who led the team in Okinawa, and they had some pretty hairy experiences. One of the uses of these Nisei was to -- you know, the Japanese loved to hole up in caves. They would build it or use the ones that existed, and they would go in, and they would

hole up there and, of course, the caves have a narrow opening so it was easy to -- any Marine or soldier who went in there, they were bumped off right away. So some of these Nisei [06:47] were used in the following way. An officer, a white officer, would take off all of his weapons [07:00], put them aside, and he would take a white flag and he would go into the cave. They would then talk -- the Nisei [07:16] would talk to the soldiers in there, and on several occasions -- I think on Okinawa and Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal, places like that -- they brought out quite a substantial number of prisoners just by talking to them. That was -- there was one famous event on Guadalcanal when a Marine officer, who had graduated from the Boulder school, went in, and he went in alone, unarmed, with a white flag, and he brought out something like [08:00] 120 Japanese soldiers. He was written up, I think, in Time magazine and saw his picture. That was a real example of the value of this training, just, you know, bringing these people out. I talked to one Japanese naval commander after the war. I never interrogated during the war, but after the war, before I left Hawaii, I was asked to interrogate this man and get them some information about it. That was an interesting experience because he came from a top family in Japan, and contrary to what happens in some countries, the [09:00] men in the top families in Japan, many of them were right in the thick of it, right in the thick of the war. They weren't given any special post somewhere, and he was one of those. He was very cooperative. Well, anyway, it was very nice chatting with you guys.

BB: This has been outstanding, and I assure you, as will Vince, that despite what you may think, you've helped us out tremendously.

GS: Well, I hope so.

BB: You've really given us a lot of new information, and even your own, you know,



interesting little circumstances at Fort Hunt still helps us to understand just a little bit more about how picky that place was and how it worked during the war.

GS: Yes, something about security and so on.

BB: Exactly.

GS: And you say you haven't interviewed Captain Boesch [09:52] or Captain Kubala [09:54]?

BB: Unfortunately, I do know for a fact that Captain Kubala has passed away [10:00]. I do know that. Boesch I don't know for certain. I would guess he may have passed away as well, but I can't say that off the top of my head.

GS: How about Colonel Kent [10:09]?

BB: Colonel Kent we haven't located, but unfortunately what happens, too, is that he was a colonel at that point, he almost certainly was an older gentleman.

GS: He was.

BB: At least older at that time, obviously, and so has probably also passed away.

GS: Yes.

BB: We've interviewed some people who knew Colonel Kent, but not him himself, obviously.

GS: Well, I just knew him to see him occasionally or to salute him when he came by or something like that.

BB: Make sure he had a hot shower.

GS: Make sure he had a hot shower. He didn't talk to me personally. He told Kubala [10:43] to tell me that he was upset. But he was sort of a mild-mannered guy, as I remember. He was not one of these rough guys that went around ordering people and saying, "Well, I think we should do this [11:00]." He was rather quiet.

BB: We'll go ahead and stop things. I don't know if you wanted to find that tape.

GS: Oh, I'll see if --

[end of transcript]

Index

Ann Arbor, Michigan, [Tape 1A] 08:00, 15:40, 23:53, 26:50, 27:18

[Tape 1B] 06:44, 08:16, 19:11, 24:04, 24:28

[Tape 2A] 00:25, 02:34, 08:17, 08:29, 13:53, 17:44, 23:19, 26:57, 28:25, 29:56

[Tape 2B] 01:34, 29:56

Boesch, Herman [Tape 1A] 24:08

[Tape 3A] 26:35

[Tape 3B] 09:52

Camp Ritchie, [Tape 2A] 10:34, 11:00

[Tape 2B] 29:35

Camp Savage, [Tape 1B] 02:40, 05:28, 06:23, 06:43, 09:19

[Tape 2A] 08:20, 08:40, 23:09, 23:38, 24:04, 25:00, 25:25, 26:46

[Tape 2B] 02:23

Camp Tracy, [Tape 1B] 03:48

[Tape 3A] 24:39

D'Olier, Franklin [Tape 3A] 04:09

Factory File, [Tape 2B] 28:25

Fort Hunt, [Tape 3A] 11:12, 16:56

Fort Meade, [Tape 2A] 10:15

Fort Snelling, [Tape 2A] 23:47, 26:23

[Tape 2B] 03:00

Fude, [Tape 1B] 14:27

Galbraith, John Kenneth [Tape 3A] 05:22, 05:37

Gravelly Point, Virginia, [Tape 3A] 07:44, 08:17, 08:43, 10:29, 10:54, 11:21, 11:44, 12:24,  
13:35, 14:42, 15:21, 15:51

Goldberg, Manny [Tape 3B] 06:06

Hiroshima, [Tape 2B] 07:53, 13:33, 25:02

[Tape 3B] 00:46

Horowitz, [Tape 1B] 02:04

Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Areas (JICPOA), [Tape 2B] 03:30, 05:02, 10:55, 14:47,  
14:57

Kapiolani Boulevard, [Tape 2B] 19:57, 20:00, 20:15, 21:17

Kent, Daniel [Tape 1A] 23:09

[Tape 3B] 10:09

Kleman, Richard [Tape 1B] 03:00, 03:54, 04:09, 05:02

Kubala, Paul [Tape 1A] 20:03, 21:03, 23:04, 23:34, 24:50

[Tape 3B] 09:54, 10:43

Levinthal, Marvin [Tape 1A] 25:19, 25:34  
[Tape 3B] 03:12

Madison, James [Tape 1A] 06:32  
MacArthur, Douglas [Tape 2B] 03:22, 15:24, 15:58

Nimitz, Chester [Tape 2B] 03:10, 04:02, 04:46, 06:43, 12:35, 15:00, 21:49, 23:56, 25:15  
[Tape 3A] 02:08

Nipkow, Louis [Tape 1B] 04:40  
Nisei, [Tape 1B] 02:50, 05:47, 06:03  
[Tape 2A] 11:34, 23:43, 24:07, 24:30, 25:03  
[Tape 2B] 05:10, 06:02, 13:55, 16:28, 18:37, 19:04, 19:22, 27:39, 30:08  
[Tape 3B] 05:45, 06:47, 07:16

Officer Candidate School (OCS), [Tape 2B] 02:26  
Oka (Sergeant), [Tape 2B] 28:39  
Oshima, Hiroshi [Tape 3A] 27:28

Pearl Harbor, [Tape 1A] 08:56, 09:21  
[Tape 1B] 31:32  
[Tape 2B] 03:07, 04:39, 05:42, 10:56, 15:55, 18:52

Pentagon, [Tape 1A] 17:18  
[Tape 3A] 09:40

P.O. Box 1142, [Tape 1A] 16:42, 24:04  
[Tape 1B] 03:32  
[Tape 2A] 12:00, 13:26, 15:17, 16:19, 17:21, 18:54, 29:39  
[Tape 2B] 01:58, 25:52, 26:14, 26:38  
[Tape 3A] 21:58, 22:11, 25:59, 27:07, 28:08, 30:32  
[Tape 3B] 02:54

Rasmussen (Colonel), [Tape 1A] 02:00

Sakai, Taizo [Tape 3A] 21:26  
Strategic Bombing Survey, [Tape 3A] 03:46, 04:31, 04:59, 06:26, 08:00, 09:16, 10:02, 15:34  
[Tape 3B] 00:33, 02:23  
Stoner, Norman [Tape 1A] 02:50

War Department, [Tape 1A] 12:59, 17:05, 17:31  
[Tape 1B] 05:59  
[Tape 2A] 03:06

World War I, [Tape 1B] 20:32  
World War II, [Tape 1B] 20:57

[Tape 2B] 00:27

[Tape 3A] 13:15, 14:29

Vatcher, Bill [Tape 2B] 22:00, 23:33, 25:12  
von Braun, Wernher [Tape 3A] 26:58, 27:00