

Fort Hunt Oral History  
P.O. Box 1142  
Interview with Franz Gajdosch by Brandon Bies  
May 6, 2010 and October 25, 2010 (by telephone)

FRANZ GAJDOSCH: Slovakia in Smolnik. The first April 1921.

BRANDON BIES: Franz, could I give just a very brief introduction first?

FG: Yeah, okay.

BB: Just one moment. Today is May 6, 2010. This is an oral history interview with Mr. Franz Gajdosch.

FG: Yeah.

BB: A former prisoner and bartender at P.O. box 1142.

FG: Yeah.

BB: This is an interview as part of the Fort Hunt oral history project for the National Park Service.

[audio break]

-- Bies. I'm joined also by Vincent Santucci, Matthew Virta [spelled phonetically], David Lassman, and a volunteer and friend, Chris von Schoning [spelled phonetically], who is helping to translate at times today [01:00]. So with that, Franz, if you could start right up again with what you were just starting to say: when and where you were born.

FG: Yeah. Okay, I start this from the beginning, you know.

BB: Great.

FG: On the first April 1921, I was born in Smolnik, down in Slovakia [01:27]. Smolnik was a German town in those days. I got in the [unintelligible] in the school, 1939. I went to -- came to Germany and I joined the Waffen-SS [01:46] and I served in the Waffen-SS first in the infantry. Excuse me. Then I became a tank man, and I was a tank -- in a tank [02:00]. At the division das Reich [02:04] that -- Panzer [02:06] division das Reich. In

Russia, in all the parts that part of the world, you know, and then in France at the invasion. At the invasion, I got captured by the Americans. I came to the interrogation. The first guy who interrogated me, he asked me where I came from. So I told him I come from Slovakia [02:36], from Smolnik. And he asked me, do you know the (Tisch/Kisch) [foreign language]? You know. The -- of course I was a lot of time down, there is a mountain. In those days, was 1944, was the operatives [spelled phonetically] in Slovakia. And the Russian [03:00], they were supporting the partisans, the in Slovakian partisans [03:05]. And that they go in the [Tisch/Kisch] [unintelligible]. They had a -- the airport, they made an airport land. They landed there with the planes, and the supplied the operatives, you know. So that was the first question. And --

BB: Okay. Franz, if you wouldn't mind if we backed up just a little bit to try to get a little bit more detail from you from your --

FG: Okay.

BB: From your career in the German military. You said that when you joined the Waffen-SS [03:48] in 1939 --

FG: Yeah.

BB: You were in the infantry first?

FG: I was first in the infantry. And the [04:00] -- it was the 4th SS infantry regiment four [04:07].

BB: And even prior to that, Franz, what type of schooling did you have? Did you go to just grade school or did you attend secondary school or college at all?

FG: Yeah, I would say the college, you know, like it's easier today probably to go to the college. You know, we have the basic school, and then I had the three classes in the

**Bilderschule** [sic] [**Bildungsschule**, education school] [04:38] they called it those days, you know. So it's about -- I probably -- a year or two of [spelled phonetically] college.

BB: Oh, and --

FG: Yeah, was in training fach (subject) -- I made the third grade, you know, and then in **Kezmarok** [04:55] the fourth grade.

BB: And what were your interests [05:00]? What did you study in school?

FG: Yeah, I was -- I was supposed to be a teacher. You see. That was the -- I had to [unintelligible] to get into teacher school, you know, the [unintelligible] the first examinations, you know.

BB: And did --

FG: But --

BB: Did you study at all to be a mechanic or was that later?

FG: There was this mechanic?

BB: Yes.

FG: Yeah, I was not a mechanic.

BB: Oh, you were not.

FG: I've only gotten trained, you see, in the **SS** [05:37] in the tanks, you know.

BB: Okay. So the -- so you did not -- that was not from your schooling, that was later when you were in the SS, you were trained to be a mechanic.

FG: Yeah. So there was, you see, we came from Russia to France. The **fourth battalion** [05:55] of the second of the **4th infantry regiment** [06:00] became a tank regiment. [unintelligible] the main authority, there was some -- to the tank school, you know.

BB: Okay.

FG: And [unintelligible] you know. In the -- at the tank school, you know, it was from November to -- '42 through March '43. I got a -- I became a **Unterscharfuhrer [06:34]** you see, a sergeant. And then from there, from the school, I got transferred to **Kharkovth [sic] [Kharkov] [06:42]**, you know, to the **das Reich [06:46]**, to the 4th -- 6th company of the **Panzer [06:52]** regiment **das Reich**. And with the Panzer regiment **das Reich**, I fought all around Kharkov. You know, it was the big tank battle at Kursk. And down at [Minsk/Minx, Russian place name], and then we got the -- came out, they put us out from Russia, and we came to France. And we were living in near **Toulouse [07:21]**, in Toulouse you see, in the area. And then you have the invasion team, you know, we marched with the tanks from Toulouse up to the **Normandy [07:34]**.

BB: And if we could go back one second, what type of tanks were you a sergeant in? What type -- was it a -- were they **Panzer [07:45]** tanks?

FG: Yeah, it was a Panzer tank. It was a -- of course I was first a canoneer in a tiger.

BB: Oh, you were a --

FG: And then from the time that you see, and then I [08:00] was transferred to the 6th company as a commander of the tank. You know.

BB: And was this --

FG: They gave me five men. The crew was five men. The driver, the communicator, you know, the loader, and then the canoneer you see he was aiming you know with the gun, and then the commander of the -- in the tank.

BB: And so you were a commander of a tiger tank?

FG: Over tanks, you see, one tank.

BB: Right. But what -- I'm just curious, what type of tank was it? Was it a tiger or a different

tank?

FG: It was a first a tiger, you know, there I was a canoneer, you know. [unintelligible] And then the -- I got transferred [09:00] to the sixth company, it was the first company, you know, and from the [unintelligible] tigers. And the sixth company, they got new P-4s [09:12]. And then all the sergeants, you know, they got transferred to the sixth company, and they took over a tank, you know.

BB: Okay. Okay.

FG: [unintelligible] the tank.

BB: And were you working -- excuse me. When you were in Russia, you were in the tiger tanks as well?

FG: No -- in Russia we -- in Poland [09:43], I was not in tank, you know. We didn't fight in tanks, you see, it wasn't -- didn't fight in Poland. Did they --, you know.

BB: Okay. You were in the infantry then.

FG: Yeah. But we were only a fight in Russia [09:58], not in Poland [10:00].

BB: Okay. Okay. And so could you describe to us a little bit about when you were transferred you said to Toulouse [10:13]. And you were -- were you assigned there to just wait for the American invasion?

FG: Well, they sent us to Toulouse for training, you know, there, you know. [unintelligible] exercise and so forth. And the -- [unintelligible] Toulouse [10:38], the Resistance. We were fighting the Resistance [10:42] in France. You know Oradour [sic] [Oradour-sur-Glane] [10:46] - -

BB: And --

FG: [unintelligible] You know about the massacre in Oradour-sur-Glane. You know about

this?

BB: No [11:00], I don't think we do.

FG: [unintelligible] but about the massacre of French civilians at Oradour-sur-Glane, blamed on das Reich but I personally, you see, all -- but our unit was not involved in it, was the tanks, you know. But in **Oradour-sur-Glane [11:16]** [unintelligible] infantry company involved in it, and then a big massacre [unintelligible]. But you know, it's -- [unintelligible] how am I to say, seem, you know. They blame us, you see, they -- we were shooting, killing the people in the church, and that's not true, you see.

BB: Okay.

FG: That's -- you know the propaganda until after the war [12:00]. Truly something different.

BB: And again, where did this take place? Where was this?

FG: In **Oradour-sur-Glane [12:12]** [unintelligible] in France, unit -- Oradour-sur-Glane in the area of **Toulouse [12:18]**, you see, and the south of France.

BB: Okay. And you were saying that your unit was not involved in the -- there was not a --

FG: No, our unit was not involved, you know. The tanks, you know. But it was a company, you know, of the infantry was involved in it.

BB: Okay. And could you describe, prior to this, where were you trained to be a mechanic?

FG: In **Poland [12:59]**.

BB: Okay.

FG: In [13:00] [unintelligible].

BB: And that was in 1942 and 1943?

FG: Yeah, that was -- there were in Poland, I was -- outside of Poland, you see, was a castle used by the army. You know, where they trained us.

BB: Okay.

FG: For the tanks. I think. Yeah.

BB: Okay.

FG: And then everything to drive, and [unintelligible] tank you have to [unintelligible].

BB: And so then after 1943, you were a mechanic for the tanks.

FG: Yeah, I was in the tank, I [unintelligible] as I said, in the company, a tank, you know.

BB: And --

FG: And I was the commander of one tank.

BB: Right, the commander of one tank.

FG: Yeah [14:00].

BB: And then when you were transferred to France, did you have the same job? Were you still a tank commander?

FG: Yeah, I was still in the tank with the tanks; we came down to France.

BB: Okay. And you were never in charge of more than one tank, just what -- you were just --

FG: Just the one tank.

BB: Just one. Okay.

FG: Just one tank.

BB: And can you tell us how you were captured by the Americans?

FG: Yeah. It was in the capital of **Brunswick [sic] [14:40]**. You know. They -- when they -- we were stationed in -- I was patrolling west of **Saint Lo [14:51]**. [unintelligible] with the tank, you know. The Americans attacked, so they broke through [15:00]. And we were retreating, in the back, going back, you know, from **Saint Lo [15:06]**. But they enclosed us, and in [unintelligible], it was the name, you know. And we got captured, you see.

Enclosed. [foreign language] Encircled, you know.

BB: Yes, encircled.

FG: I got encircled. And I went [unintelligible] with the tank, you know, to drive to school [unintelligible]. You know. And on the [unintelligible], you know, to the [unintelligible], the Americans, they drove through, you know. But what -- [unintelligible] you see [unintelligible] [16:00]. We were in training, you know.

BB: And --

FG: And in **St. Martens [16:08]**, you know, it was in the village. And they were already -- they had captured the Americans in there. You know, they already captured the town. So we attacked at night the town. And this village was a smaller village, you know. And we were shooting, you know. And the Americans were shooting, you know. And then I got a [unintelligible] I have to say, you know. The cannon you see when we shoot. So after the gunner went out, so they came back, the gun, you know. But from this shoot, you see the shooting, you know [17:00]. It was probably getting too hot, and the gun didn't work anymore.

BB: Okay.

FG: Yeah.

BB: So your tank's gun malfunctioned.

FG: Yeah.

BB: It overheated and broke.

FG: It -- yeah, it didn't function, you know. So what to do? When you cannot shoot and you want to shoot to keep your head down, you know, you can't -- you don't shoot, so you are a target, you know. And the tank was broken you see, didn't work, you see. It didn't -- so



I got the -- took the order to the crew, get out of the tank. So we jumped out of the tank, you know, and sneaked through the gardens, you know, through the Americans, out of the village, you know, to -- in the forest. But it was in the night. And they -- and I couldn't call [18:00] out you see, call to the guys, because that was -- it was too dangerous, you see. So in the morning, you know, I was only by myself. Everybody, five guys went in different directions.

BB: Okay.

FG: So I wanted to -- so I keep going, you know, through the forest, and I came to a farmhouse, to a French farmhouse. So I went in, there was the French man in there. I asked him are the Americans here; no, no monsieur. So I was very hungry you know and he gave me a loaf -- a piece of bread. And suddenly in the yard drove a Jeep in. And there were four Americans in there, and I got the gun, you know, and went to the window. The Frenchman, he said oh, monsieur, no, no, no, le guerre fine, le guerre fine [19:00]. So I threw my gun out of the window. And what happened is these two guys, they jump out of the Jeep, they started shooting through in the window, you know, and they -- in the back the French guy is wounded. So what to do now. So I say okay, I don't give a pfennig for my life. So I went out of the door and raised my hands, you know. But it was lucky they didn't shoot at the door. So I came to the Jeep. Oh the first English words I heard were "Okay, boy, you're a good boy, you're a good boy," like that.

BB: And --

FG: So the people in the Jeep -- but I had nothing with me, you see, and they showed me, you've got to have a blanket, a tent, you know, they asked me, and so I had nothing, you know [20:00]. And everything was left in the tank when I jumped out. So I showed

these guys, you know, and the [unintelligible] everything, you know. Equipment and -- so then we came to the -- to a camp, to a middle, you know. [unintelligible] already stocked up with a blanket, tent, and [unintelligible] everything. And then [unintelligible] a few guys, you know, but some of these guys weren't with me, though. So we waited at the end of the truck sitting [spelled phonetically], let's go on the truck, and they locked us in the truck, with the sun in the back, you know. Okay, [unintelligible]. And we drove to the shore. You know, at the shore were they -- a guy sitting, you know, on the [unintelligible] and he took the names of, you know, in the boat, and [21:00] up to **England [21:02]**.

BB: Okay. And could we --

FG: And [unintelligible] to **England [21:04]** to **Portland [21:06]**, you know, so when I came I didn't have a look at, you know, where they kept us.

BB: And Franz --

FG: And there we got -- I got interrogated.

BB: Okay.

FG: For the interrogation, you know. And then there, like I said, they asked me where I came from, and so I told them from **Slovakia [21:26]**, from Smolnik, and these guys they kept me, asked me if I know the [Tisch/Kisch] [unintelligible]. It's a mountain there. I said certainly, I've a lot of time up there, and at the time, it was '44, there was a Slovakian uprising and the Russians, they supported them, and they built up there an airfield you know and they landed there with their [22:00] supplies for the partisans.

BB: Franz, could we interrupt real quick and back up a little bit with a number of questions we have?

FG: Yeah [unintelligible].

BB: Sure. Well first, could you again -- when you jumped out of your tank, had your tank been shot or damaged at all, or was the only problem the gun?

FG: It was only the gun problem.

BB: Okay. So it still could drive around, but it had no gun.

FG: Yeah, no gun. It couldn't shoot, you know. The cannon was -- didn't work, so there was **Panzers [22:42]** -- nonsense to you know to stay in the tank. You had more -- you are more protected in infantries outside than in the tank, you know. You're in the tank, it's a big target.

BB: When you were in this battle and your gun overheated [23:00], were you shooting at other American tanks or were you shooting at infantry?

FG: No, American tanks.

BB: Okay. Okay so it was a tank battle.

FG: It was a tank battle, you know.

BB: Okay. Okay. And so then you hid in the forest overnight, and the next morning you went to a French farmer's house.

FG: Yeah.

BB: It was -- and that French farmer, he was friendly to you?

FG: Yeah, of course. He -- loaf of bread, a piece of bread, you know. And then some coffee. And he was friendly, you know.

BB: And so when the Americans came in the Jeep, you said there were four Americans in a Jeep.

FG: Yeah.

BB: They -- did the French [24:00] farmer try to hide you or did he turn you over and tell the Americans that you were there?

FG: No, he -- I tried to shoot out of the windows, you know. I -- my gun, in the -- the machine -- these automatic guns, you know. I had -- and I had went to the window, you know, and at the -- they tried to shoot, and then the Frenchman say no monsieur, no, no, no. Le guerre fine, le guerre fine. That means no monsieur, the war is over.

BB: So --

FG: I threw the gun out of the window.

BB: So you -- when you first saw the Americans, you tried shooting at them with your machine pistol.

FG: Yeah.

BB: Okay. Was -- and was it just a -- did you have a -- just a small pistol or was it [25:00] a machine pistol, like an MP-40?

FG: Yeah, it was -- [unintelligible] when I went out of the door, you know.

BB: You --

FG: And raised my hands.

BB: And so then you --

FG: And I was simply -- I was captured.

BB: Did -- do you know if you shot any of the Americans or did you miss them?

FG: No, I didn't shoot, you know. I only -- I didn't shoot, you know.

BB: Okay. So you just -- you pointed your gun out the window, but the French --

FG: I threw the gun out of the window, you see.

BB: And so the French farmer convinced you to not shoot.

FG: Yeah.

BB: Okay. And then how were you treated -- you said the Americans said you'd been a -- you were a good boy?

FG: Yeah, they said hey you're a good [26:00] boy, you're a good boy. It was defense. [unintelligible]. You know, I didn't speak a word of English, you know.

BB: So then after that, did they question you or interrogate you or did they just take you away?

FG: No, they only take me away. They took me to a collection point, you see, where they collected more prisoners, you know. They were in a field, you know, in France.

BB: Did --

FG: There were only about I would say total of 20 or 30 guys standing there, you know, a truck came, you know, and then with the truck, they put us on the truck, and with the truck we drove. They drove us to the shore.

BB: Did the Americans know that you were in the **Waffen-SS [27:00]**?

FG: Yeah, probably.

BB: Okay. But they --

FG: [unintelligible] I guess so, you know. They --

BB: But -- and -- but this first group of 20 or 30 prisoners that you were all with, were they a mix of prisoners or were they all **Waffen-SS [27:20]**?

FG: They were mixed up.

BB: Okay.

FG: Mixed up people. So they were from **Wehrmacht [27:30]** and Waffen-SS, you know.

BB: Okay.

FG: They were mixed up [unintelligible].

VINCENT SANTUCCI: Hi Franz, this is Vince.

FG: On the boat, you know, there were over 3,000 men in the boat already.

BB: Okay, we'll --

FG: [unintelligible] There was no place there to stay to lay down anymore you know.

VS: Franz, we'll come back to that in a minute [28:00]. This is Vince.

FG: Yeah.

VS: I had just one question. I wanted to make sure we understood what the date was approximately when you were captured. Do you recall?

FG: Yeah, that was -- let's see and [unintelligible]. I guess I don't know, I cannot --

VS: Was it spring time or was it summer or was it fall?

FG: Oh it was summer, it was summer.

VS: Okay. May, June, July, August?

FG: It was [unintelligible] you see and there was a -- it was August.

VS: Okay.

FG: It was August, yeah, yeah.

VS: Okay, and just one last question, because our tape is going to end [29:00] very quickly here and we'll have to change the tape. That -- when you were engaging with the Americans, were you -- how aware were you at that time in terms of the Americans landing at **Normandy [29:19]** and the **D-Day [29:21]** assault against the German wall?

FG: Yeah.

VS: Were you aware of that at the time?

FG: Yeah, yeah [unintelligible]. We got the [unintelligible], you know. We got introduced,

you see, instructed, you see, [unintelligible]. For the commander, he was a -- he landed, you know, in the [unintelligible]. In **St. Lo [29:53]**, near Saint Lo, you know, protecting Saint Lo. And we were [unintelligible] attacked, [30:00] the Americans, you know, but we -- there was not the success you know. We had to retreat you know, to shut down and go back, you know.

VS: So when you were fighting with the Americans, were you moving forward or were you moving backward from the Americans?

FG: Yeah, we were forward for, you know, and -- but in the morning we started fighting, you see. And then I got [unintelligible], go back, you see, to retreat. And I got the order, to stand [unintelligible], you know, to stay there. And protect the infantry, you know, to be a protection in the infantry [31:00] retreated [unintelligible] you know. And [unintelligible] surrender and then [unintelligible] group came and the [unintelligible] 30,000, okay, on the last one, he had the last infantry. So we started moving in direction of [unintelligible], you know, to **St. Martel [31:24]**.

VS: Okay, I think our tape has ended so we're going --

(End of Tape 1A)

(Beginning of Tape 1B)

VS: And I hope we're not speaking too fast for you.

FG: No, no.

VS: Now Chris is protecting you from our --

FG: [unintelligible] I will not joke. I speak a lot of English, you see, but not perfect.

VS: I think your English is very, very good. We understand you quite well. So thank you again. So just one more context question. In terms of when you were engaging the

Americans, do you know the word offensive versus defensive?

FG: Yeah.

VS: Were you being -- were your tanks offensive or were they defensive?

FG: Defensive.

VS: Defensive, okay.

FG: Yes.

VS: And you were saying that you were possibly retreating?

FG: Yeah, we [01:00] [unintelligible] first attacked, you know. [unintelligible] not going to do something, but waiting to roll dice, you know, you got to -- it's [unintelligible].

VS: Was your understanding at the time that the Americans were successfully pushing the Germans back?

FG: Yeah.

VS: Okay.

FG: Yeah.

VS: I'm going to give the phone back to Brandon now. Thank you.

BB: Franz, one more question. After the American landings in June, did you fight every day? Were you fighting continuously or did you just fight in a couple of battles?

FG: I did not -- and I would say a couple, not even a couple you see, that is [unintelligible].

BB: Was the battle that [02:00] you were fighting when you were captured, was that the only tank battle you were in or did you shoot -- did your tank engage the Americans before that?

FG: Yeah, there was -- they already won, you know.

BB: Okay.



FG: It seems to me that we were down in South France, in [Toulouse \[02:26\]](#), you know, when the invasion came.

BB: Okay. You were too far away.

FG: And we had to move, we move like with the tanks, you know. On the road to [Normandy \[02:39\]](#) [unintelligible] I don't know whatever things that were -- how long, you know. Two weeks, you know, to come up from Toulouse to [Saint Lo \[02:54\]](#).

BB: Did -- when you got -- when you travelled from [Toulouse \[03:00\]](#) to Saint Lo, did you drive your tank or was your tank all terrain?

FG: Yeah we were driving the tank.

BB: Okay. So --

FG: [unintelligible] an incident, a nice incident, you know. It was in the chain, you see, the track, you know. You got trouble with this, you know. So I had to stop and repair the track to show it you see. You know.

BB: So that's why it took so long, because the track on the tank broke.

FG: Yeah. But so I would -- but the whole time we moved, you know, and then it was getting dark, you know, so then I had to radio another company commander who said, you know, I cannot help the repair [unintelligible] [04:00] group you know. Stay there and look how -- a place where you can stay. And the next morning I send a repair group you know and they want to repair the track, you know, and then you come [unintelligible]. So I looked up on the few houses, moved up with the tank, you know, in the [unintelligible] the house as well as within in the trench car, and there was the madam, you know, and two girls. And I said madam, coucher (sleep) [unintelligible], you know. You know, one thing I have to say is we were -- it was not a lot for us to throw the -- a Frenchman out [05:00] of

his house.

BB: Okay.

FG: You know. In France, you know, [unintelligible] Russia, you know. You needed [unintelligible] we couldn't do that, you see, so we had to ask them if they permitted us, you know, to stay there in the room.

BB: Right.

FG: In the house.

BB: And --

FG: So I asked the madam, I couldn't speak French at the time, madam, coucher [foreign language], you know. [unintelligible] and the girls, two of them went in the bedroom and together they laid down on the bed, cross out on the bed. I said no, no, mamma mia, [unintelligible] you know, coucher on the floor and then they were happy and laughing. So, and they thank and slept in the kitchen [unintelligible]. So the madam you know, they bring, give us food to eat [06:00] so any [unintelligible] in the morning breakfast [unintelligible] you know.

BB: Okay.

FG: It was a funny problem [unintelligible].

BB: No, that is very funny.

FG: Right, right.

BB: So getting back to your capture, you -- what happened, can you describe after you were captured, you were with a group of 20 or 30 German prisoners.

FG: Yeah, yeah.

BB: And --

FG: [unintelligible] on the trucks, you see, with the -- on the truck, they took us to the shore.

And at the shore, in a boat, in a battleship they had in those days, you know. So and they took us to [England \[06:52\]](#).

BB: To England, okay.

FG: Yeah.

BB: And had --

FG: Right, in England and you know in [Portland \[06:58\]](#) or [07:00] -- when we came to Portland in England, you know, in a prison camp. And I stayed there 14 days or so, you know, but then all the [unintelligible] all I have to say there were no barracks, you see. They do the sleeping in tents. They also do -- how I have to say, [unintelligible], you know. And there were tanks, you had no [unintelligible], nothing, you know. They took everything away. Cigarettes, we got cigarettes.

BB: Okay.

FG: [unintelligible] smoking. So if you smoke and want to smoke the cigarettes, the guard, he was patrolling in front of the tank, so if you showed him [unintelligible] the cigarette [08:00], you see in the -- and so he'd light up the cigarette and you can smoke. He took you to the toilet. The guard took you to the washing room, you know. And so far, so that was allowed in this camp how it goes.

BB: And Franz, at what point -- were you ever interrogated?

FG: The first interrogation was in [England \[08:27\]](#), in [Portland \[08:28\]](#).

BB: Okay. So when you were in [France \[08:31\]](#), they never questioned you. Did they even know that you were a tank commander?

FG: No, they did not ask questions. You know.

BB: Okay, so no questioning until you got to Portland into -- in England.

FG: No. There wasn't -- by the way, the interrogation [unintelligible] out front when I came to the interrogation in [England \[08:57\]](#) in [Portland \[08:58\]](#). And the guy [09:00], he leads the [unintelligible]. So then I said, I come from [Slovakia \[09:05\]](#), from Smolnik you know. And he asked me, you know the [unintelligible]? The mountain, I was shocked, and he said, I know and you know I have a lot of times up there, you know. Okay, so I would -- I don't know, you know. Eventually he asked me about the unit and everything else and so forth, you know.

BB: And how -- the man who interrogated you in England, was he an American or was he British?

FG: He was American.

BB: Okay. And what --

FG: He was an American, not a British.

BB: What did he ask you about other than the fighting in [Slovakia \[09:53\]](#)? What did he talk to, what did he ask you about?

FG: Yeah, if I ask [10:00] -- if I know, they're going to [unintelligible], this mountain, you know, in Slovakia. There's this [unintelligible] you know. It was only a question from him, you know, and I don't know in those days, what he means with this, you know. And not only this, you know, you asked me about the unit and so on.

BB: So, I'm sorry, they -- he -- then he started to ask you about your unit?

FG: Yeah, sure.

BB: Okay. And so is that when they found out that you were a tank commander?

FG: Yeah.

BB: Okay. And how -- was this just one interrogation or did you meet with him several times in [England \[10:50\]](#)?

FG: Happened only once. Once I guess you see as far as I remember now.

BB: Okay.

FG: You know, they are in [11:00] -- from there, you know, from [Portland \[11:03\]](#), so one of [unintelligible] interrogation a few days ago. You know. So in the morning, the guards, he opened up the tent and said and come on, boy, come on, boy. So I took my [unintelligible] with him, so he drove me to the -- to a place you see, and I was standing with 20 or 30 guys on the drive, you know. So we make it to a truck, up on the truck, with the truck up there to the railroad. And the railroads -- and the theme, I'm in the nice, first class value we were sitting in. And we were going to London. Came to [London \[11:53\]](#), and London again on the truck, and up then we came to the [12:00] air field. On the air field in London, there was airplane standing in the road, and they came out to the - - they drove us to the plane, and in the plane was standing an American officer, you know. And he said, gentlemen -- and I still -- I remember this, and he said gentlemen, you're lucky. You come to the United States. Okay, so I went out in the plane.

BB: So --

FG: And then the plane when I was in then, then I recognized yeah, there was only high ranking officers, you know. There was not soldiers, and I wasn't a sergeant, but there were all generals or something like this, you know. Oh yeah. So I [unintelligible], landed them in end in [England \[12:54\]](#), and then we went to [Iceland \[12:59\]](#), we flew from [Iceland \[13:00\]](#) to [Newfoundland \[13:03\]](#) and then to [Washington, D.C. \[13:04\]](#). In Washington, D.C. in the blue truck in the [unintelligible] we called it, you know. And

the [unintelligible] was for three hours, you know, was what [unintelligible] technology, you know. And then we came up, you know, this the truck stopped, door got opened, and so they moved us into Fort Hunt, you know. We had no idea where we were in those days, you see. We didn't know that.

BB: Okay.

FG: So [unintelligible] you know, and then we got new equipment as in new clothes, we get all, you know, into the washroom and clean ourselves [unintelligible] and then we get in the room, in a room [14:00], you know. As a --

BB: Franz, can we back up just a little bit and ask you a few more questions, and then we'll get on to 1142 [14:12] in one moment. The camp that you were in in England [14:17], how long were you there for? You said you were there for about 14 days?

FG: Yeah, about 14 days I would say.

BB: And how big was this camp? Were there lots of German prisoners there?

FG: Yeah, yeah, a lot of other Germans. A big camp, you know, was over 1,000 probably [unintelligible]. There was so many tents, you know.

BB: But it was a camp that was -- was it run by -- was it supervised by the Americans?

FG: By the Americans, yeah.

BB: Okay.

FG: There was a -- the American, the guard for everything was American, you know.

BB: And were you treated [15:00] well while you were there?

FG: Well, no, it was okay, you know. You are on the [unintelligible], not walk slowly, you know, let's go, let's go, got to run. Run fast, you know.

BB: Okay. And you were interrogated on one occasion by -- was it an American officer - -

who was?

FG: Yeah I suppose, you know.

BB: Okay. And how soon after that interrogation did you leave the camp? Did you leave the next day?

FG: No, there was maybe - - four days after three days you see the -- not immediately, you know.

BB: Okay. And so you were then taken to the railroad.

FG: Yeah.

BB: Where you took a very fancy railroad -- a Pullman car first class from the railroad to the airport [15:00]?

FG: No, to [London \[16:03\]](#), to the -- to the station, you know.

BB: So and --

FG: And in London, you know, we came out after the railroad station, you know, and on the other truck waiting for us. Because then the truck then from the railroad station that drove us to the airport.

BB: And the airport --

FG: Yeah.

BB: The airport, was that in [London \[16:28\]](#)?

FG: Yeah, I'll try to remember [unintelligible] being in there.

BB: And --

FG: But it was not long you know, we drove, you know, maybe half an hour or so.

BB: Were you with other German prisoners on this trip? Were they with you the entire time or not until you got --

FG: Yeah, yeah.

BB: So you'd mentioned that there were German -- there were German generals on the plane.

Were they [17:00] --

FG: Yeah, on the plane.

BB: Were they with you before that?

FG: Yeah, the [unintelligible] and the train too, you know.

BB: Okay.

FG: But in the train, you know, they didn't -- did not recognize them, you know. But

[unintelligible] in the plane you know.

BB: So you did not realize that they were generals until you got on the plane.

FG: On the plane, yeah --

BB: Okay. But they had been with you. Had they been in the same camp in [England \[17:36\]](#)

that you had been in?

FG: Yeah.

BB: Okay.

FG: Yeah.

BB: So you travelled -- and how many people again? How many people were in this group of prisoners?

FG: Yeah, I would say maybe in total you're not even counting between 20 to 30 to 40 people.

BB: Franz, can you [18:00] just hold on one minute? We -- we're having some technical problems with our recorder right now.

FG: Yeah.

BB: Okay, let's -- I'm going -- I apologize, Franz.



FG: Yeah.

BB: There -- well, we can --

FG: Oh my God, it's fine.

BB: Okay. And it seems like we're working again.

FG: Yeah.

BB: I -- so again, I'm sorry for that interruption. You -- about how many people were in this group?

FG: I would say between 20 and 30.

BB: Between 20 and 30 people.

FG: Yeah.

BB: Okay. And at any point, were you searched for [19:00] documents or for anything like that when you were captured or when you were interrogated? Did they search you for documentation?

FG: No, no, no, no. They -- I didn't get searched.

BB: So did you have anything with you? Any documents or letters or --

FG: No, I had nothing. I did not even have my passport. Maybe I left it in the tank, you know. Maybe [unintelligible] and out of the tank, you know, we [unintelligible] the -- left it in the tank, you know.

BB: Okay.

FG: Because it was in the summer, it was hot, you know, and we -- and took off the jacket, you know, everything.

BB: Right. Okay. So you said you would take your jackets off?

FG: Yeah, you know, there were no jackets on, you know.

BB: Okay. And so [20:00] again, you got to the airport outside of [London \[20:06\]](#). And --

FG: Yeah.

BB: And that's when you realized on the plane that you were with lots of high ranking Germans.

FG: Yeah.

BB: Were you the lowest ranking person in that group?

FG: Yeah, I think so, yeah.

BB: Was -- and was it still the same 20 to 30 people?

FG: Yeah, it was the same.

BB: Were there guards on the plane with you?

FG: No I mean you talk, you see, you're not supposed to talk to each other.

BB: No, but --

FG: It's not allowed, as you know, not to smoke, not to talk. But you sit quiet.

BB: So how did you find out that some of the other prisoners were generals?

FG: Yeah, when they landed you see in [Washington \[20:57\]](#).

BB: Oh, not until you landed in [Washington \[21:00\]](#).

FG: Yeah.

BB: And how -- do you remember about how many Americans were on the plane with you?

FG: Oh, it was a few. You know, I cannot say.

BB: Okay. Did -- but were you under guard? Did they have guns or were you not guarded?

FG: Yeah, they had guns, so.

BB: Okay.

FG: Yeah, with their very big guns, [unintelligible] they'd carry guns, yeah.

BB: Okay. Could you then describe for us how it came to -- you know, how you landed in the United States, what that was like?

FG: Yeah, like I had an incident you know. In [Iceland \[21:57\]](#), then we in Iceland -- we landed in [Iceland \[22:00\]](#), you know. They took us to the [unintelligible] to see, to a canteen.

BB: To a canteen, okay.

FG: Yeah, where we got the -- something to eat, you know, to drink, you know.

BB: Okay.

FG: And -- [coughs]

MALE SPEAKER: It sounded like he said Iceland to us.

BB: Yes.

FG: And then it was -- go on, the go behind the counter, you know, they gave a glass of water. What I wanted, you know, I only want the glass of water, water, I said. You know, so she poured me a glass water, and I took the cigarette, you know, and showed -- made to understand to light my cigarette, you know. Oh [unintelligible] light the cigarette, you can no, no, not allowed, and they took it away [laughs].

BB: And so was this [\[23:00\]](#) in -- did you say [Iceland \[23:02\]](#) or Ireland?

FG: Iceland.

BB: Ice?

FG: In Iceland, Iceland.

BB: Iceland, okay, okay. And so then where did you fly after [Iceland \[23:16\]](#)? You went to [Newfoundland \[23:18\]](#)?

FG: To Newfoundland.

BB: Okay.

FG: From Newfoundland to [Washington, D.C.](#) [23:24].

BB: Okay. And how, did you take a break? Did you stay overnight or were you just landing and refueling?

FG: [unintelligible] In Washington remember it was in the afternoon.

BB: In the -- okay. But were you on the plane overnight? Were you sleeping on the plane or did you stay at --

FG: No, you sleep -- it was in the seat, you know, you could sleep [24:00]. You -- it wasn't a modern plane, you know. Like now the planes, you know, you -- on the seat you have the -- a button, you push the button, and then that goes back and you can --

BB: So you could recline. Okay.

FG: Yeah.

BB: What time of day was it when you arrived in [Washington, D.C.](#) [24:26]? Do you remember?

FG: Yeah --

BB: About what time?

FG: Hello?

BB: Yeah, I'm sorry. Franz, we're still having some difficulties with our recording system.

FG: Yeah.

BB: So if you're hearing noises in the background, that's what we're trying to fix.

FG: Okay.

BB: If -- and also, if we should get disconnected, we'll call you back. We're just having a little bit of phone problems right now.

FG: Yeah, okay.

BB: So we'll keep going for now, but just if it hangs up [25:00], we'll definitely -- we'll call you back.

FG: Yeah, very fine [unintelligible].

BB: Okay. Well we're still here now. Can you hold on for just a few more seconds, I'm going to --

[audio break]

Okay. I think we might have it back now, working right, now. So again can you describe what happened after you landed in the -- at the airport?

FG: Yeah, at the airport, the [unintelligible] it was the [unintelligible], you know, that they -- a truck, no windows, nothing, you know. And [inaudible]. For two hours, you know [26:00]. A long time they drove us, we were driving, driving, driving. It's probably you know when the truck stopped, open up the big back doors, you know, and there was a -- the road, you know, [unintelligible] [Fort Hunt \[26:20\]](#) and the camp. [unintelligible] so we got new clothes. Or we had to give -- take our clothes off you know and we got new clothes you know. It was a fatigues, the medical fatigues, you know.

BB: Franz, can I --

(End of Tape 1B)

(Beginning of Tape 2A)

BB: -- worked out for now.

FG: [unintelligible]

BB: I'm going to give again just a very quick introduction and then we'll get going again.

Today is May 6, 2010. This is the second in a series of interviews for the Fort Hunt Oral

History Project. We are interviewing Mr. Franz Gajdosch in Germany over the phone, a former prisoner at P.O. Box 1142. This is Brandon Bies with the National Park Service also joined by National Parks Service employees Vincent Santucci, Matthew Verta, and David Lassman. We're also joined by a friend and volunteer, Ms. Chris von Schoning, who is helping us out with German and English translation. With that, Franz, can we -- I know we've had you describe this a few times, but since we have our technical glitches [01:00] worked out, one last time could you describe for us arriving in [Washington, D.C.](#) [01:06] and your trip from the airport to [P.O. Box 1142](#) [01:12]?

FG: Yeah. It was [unintelligible] blue, dark blue truck, no windows, nothing inside. [unintelligible] it was in there, you know, like this. It was -- on board five days, and we were sitting there, you know, and driving, I would say [unintelligible] a long time, you know, maybe an hour or two hours. The truck stopped, opened the back doors, you know, and there were [unintelligible] room, you know, we went in, and in there, they took our [02:00] names again, you know, and we got new clothes. We had to give our clothes up, you know, and get new dress.

BB: Had you been -- had you been wearing your German tank uniform up until this point?

FG: [unintelligible]

BB: Okay.

FG: Yeah.

BB: And was -- did the entire group from the airplane, did they all get on the same limousine, or --

FG: Yeah.

BB: Okay.

FG: We all had the same.

BB: Okay. At any point --

FG: And maybe there was some more, but we were ill, you see. Maybe they let [unintelligible], so I don't know. I haven't seen one. They all knew there was one driving in, you know, then we were maybe ten people in this limousine.

BB: Okay [03:00]. Were you told at any point on this trip where you were going?

FG: No.

BB: Did you know when you landed? Did you know you were in [Washington, D.C.](#) [03:13]?

FG: Yeah. That we know. I know we got to it, you know. [unintelligible] Washington, D.C.

BB: Did they tell you why you were there?

FG: No.

BB: Okay.

FG: They didn't talk to us you see on the train, thank God. They only said it's [Washington, D.C.](#) [03:44].

BB: So they told you, you were in Washington?

FG: Yeah.

BB: Okay. And so again, can you describe for us arriving at [P.O. Box 1142](#) [03:56]? You mentioned that you were given a change of clothes [04:00]. Were you checked out by a doctor?

FG: Yeah. Yeah. There was a doctor, too, you know, [unintelligible] remember.

BB: Did they question you or --

FG: Not at the same time. When we arrived, you know. It was the next day or two days later, you know. First we got the new clothes, you know, and then in the wash room, we had to

get the underwear washed, you know, and then we got fed, you know, to eat. Next day or two days later we had to go to the doctor.

BB: Okay. So you saw the doctor a couple -- a couple days after you arrived [05:00]. And now it's just a routine checkup?

FG: Yeah. How sick you are, what you got if you were sick and so far and everything [unintelligible].

BB: Okay. And can -- did -- can you describe the room you were assigned to? Did they assign you to a room as soon as you arrived?

FG: Yeah. They were a single room, you know. It was not a big room, you know. There was a bed. There was a guy in there. Funny thing was when I came in, a guard, he moves me in the room, and the guy would sit in there, a German guy. [06:00] I asked him right out I think. He already asked me, you know, hello, how are you, what's your name, you know. He stopped and talked to me. And where you come from, what unit you are, and so on. Oh, I said, they -- the Americans have hidden the microphones. Where they have hidden the microphones.

BB: Who said that?

FG: Yeah, I said -- hidden the microphones, you know.

BB: So you --

FG: I was very cautious.

BB: So as you -- so you walked into the room. Who asked you these questions? Just how are you doing and what unit were you in? Was it the other person in the room or was it the guard?

FG: I don't remember who, you know.



BB: So another German?

FG: Another German. Yeah.

BB: So he was a prisoner [07:00] who was already in the room.

FG: Yeah. Yeah.

BB: And he --

FG: He asked me all these things [unintelligible]. "I forgot the Americans had microphones," you know, so a few moments later the guard came and took me out into the interrogation, you know.

BB: So you were only in the room for a few minutes before you were taken back out for interrogation.

FG: Yah, yah. Interrogation, you know. So I came -- the interrogation was -- I don't know. He was an officer or something, you know.

BB: And can you --

FG: And he asked me everything. And I was telling him the whole story of my life, you know, in so far, you know, from the unit and everything -- every question [08:00] he asked me, you know, I was answering correctly, you know. I was maybe an hour or so, you know. I was sitting there in the room. [unintelligible] and this gentleman, you know, with his officer, I guess, he asked me do you want to know your location? Oh, I don't -- [unintelligible] I told -- I couldn't lay back, you know. I said, certainly sir. So he pushed a button. A guard came, come in, "boy, you want to see Fort Hunt?" They brought me into the mess house [unintelligible]. And I started washing dishes.

BB: Was this on the same day as your interrogation?

FG: Yeah. But at the same day [09:00] interrogation, you know.

BB: So they took you straight from the interrogation into the mess hall.

FG: Yeah, direct in the mess hall and introduced me, they [unintelligible] -- the guard brought me to the mess hall, you know.

BB: Okay. Well --

FG: I guess **Smith [09:17]** was his name, if I remember.

BB: Can you -- could you say the name again?

FG: Smith. Smith.

BB: Smith?

FG: Smith I guess was his name.

BB: So did you say Schmidt?

FG: [unintelligible] Schmidt. Smith.

BB: Could you spell that for us?

FG: [unintelligible] S-E -- S-M-E-T, Smith [spelled phonetically].

BB: Oh. **Smith [09:47]**. Smith.

FG: Yes.

BB: Smith. S-M-I-T-H Smith?

FG: Yeah.

BB: A Sergeant Smith?

FG: Yeah. Smith.

BB: So he was American [10:00].

FG: He was American, yes.

BB: He was not of German lineage.

FG: And then a guy came. He was my sponsor, you know. You got the -- every **POW**

[10:16] had a sponsor. You needed something, you know, or you want food or something, to whom you going to talk? You know? So I had a sponsor, and he introduced himself. I am Krempel, spoke perfect German.

BB: I'm sorry. Could you say his last name again?

FG: Kremper [spelled phonetically].

BB: Kreaemer? Kremper?

FG: [unintelligible] Coca-Cola. K-R-E-A-E [11:00]. Kreaemer [11:03].

BB: Kreaemer.

FG: [unintelligible]

BB: Krempa?

FG: Krempel. [unintelligible] Krempel.

BB: Krempener.

FG: Not Krempener, Krempel [11:33].

BB: Krempel, K-R-E-M-P-E-L.

FG: Yeah. Krempel was my sponsor.

BB: Krempel.

FG: Yeah. So I talked to tell him everything what I need, you know. I asked him if there are any -- if he can the supply [12:00] me with some books, you know, I can learn English. He said, "oh, no problem, my boy", you know. He was a rather fine guy.

BB: Do you remember --

FG: He wanted -- [unintelligible], you know. Would you like to come with me on my farm? I say no, I want to go home. I didn't want to stay there. He's a very, very nice guy. The next day he brought me a lot of books, you know. English grammar, and I was starting,

you know, learning English, English, and English, you know. [unintelligible] spoke a little bit English, so I got -- they took me from the dish-washing place out in the dining room, you know. So I was a server, and I served the guys [13:00], you know. The officers morning breakfast and so and so and so. My first -- I washed dishes, you see. I had to deliver the food, the breakfast, the lunch, in the evening, up to the prisoners in these rooms that had in the place, not only me, you know, but some other guys in, too, and you know, I delivered one day to a U-boat [13:37] captain, to a U-boat captain, only -  
- a normal bread and a glass of water every day for a week.

BB: You -- I'm sorry. You -- you did what every day for a week?

FG: A normal white bread. A slice [14:00] of white bread and a glass of water.

BB: Oh.

FG: In the morning, and lunch for the evening. It's all what he got.

BB: And who?

FG: Because he was a U-boat [14:09] captain.

BB: Okay. So a U-boat captain, and he was only allowed to have a slice of bread and water?

FG: Yeah. That was all that he got.

BB: And so do you know why this U-boat [14:30] captain was only getting bread and water?

FG: No. No. No. I was not allowed to talk to him, you know.

BB: Was he -- was the U-boat captain --

FG: After he got the [unintelligible], you know, [unintelligible]. You're curious, you know, [unintelligible] everything.

BB: Was the U-boat [14:49] captain by himself in a cell?

FG: Yeah. He only one in the cell, in each cell you know.

BB: Okay [15:00].

FG: [unintelligible] you know, rules.

BB: So can you -- can you describe the building for us a little bit again? You said it was a square building?

FG: Yeah. It's square building.

BB: And can you --

FG: It had two floors.

BB: It had two floors?

FG: Two floors. Yeah. The upper floor, there were the criminals, and up, you know, with offices around, you know, and administrate and all this stuff, up were the German prisoners, and the Americans were in the basement.

BB: Okay. And was -- so was it a basement that was under -- it was underground basement?

FG: No. Not underground.

BB: Just a first -- just a first floor and a second floor.

FG: First floor. Yeah. The first floor and then the second floor for the PWs [15:56].

BB: And so the prisoners were all --

FG: [16:00] It was, you know, a solid fence, you know, you could -- a stone fence, you know.

And every day for one hour you could go out and walk around.

BB: Okay. So you said the fence that was around there, you said it was a stone fence? It wasn't --

FG: A stone fence.

BB: It was not -- it wasn't wire?

FG: Yeah. On the top was wire.

BB: There was wire on the top, but it was more of a -- but it was a wall that you could not see out?

FG: Yeah, it was. There was a wall there; it was about two meters high. I don't know. Very high. Very high.

BB: Okay.

FG: It was so high like [unintelligible].

BB: Did you see guard towers?

FG: Yeah. There were guard towers, too.

BB: Where were they located?

FG: They were on [17:00] two corners.

BB: On two corners?

FG: Yeah.

BB: Was there a guard tower in the middle or just on the outside?

FG: No. It was not in the middle. I don't think so. It was on the corner, on the right and the left corner.

BB: Okay. So you remember two guard houses.

FG: Yeah. Yeah.

BB: Okay. And do you know about how many prisoners were held inside this building?

FG: No. I don't know. I don't.

BB: Okay. Can -- where did you stay? Did you stay in that building or did you sleep somewhere else?

FG: Yeah. The first time I came to this house [unintelligible] mess hall. After the interrogation, you know, I have to introduce you to the mess hall, and then I got a [18:00]

-- I was living forever in the direction you see, to the [Potomac River \[18:08\]](#). There was a forest. In the forest. In the forest they were high. You know, wooden barracks. And then in the barracks were already four guys. We had to share the room with four guys in there.

BB: And were the other -- were the guys you shared it with, were they German or were they American?

FG: There were German prisoners too. Yeah.

BB: So you were in a -- in a hut in the woods.

FG: In a hut. Yeah. In the forest.

BB: Okay. Okay.

FG: And we could go [unintelligible] -- sneaked out you see to get --

BB: You -- you snuck out? Did you say you snuck out? Franz, are you still there [19:00]?

MS: I think we lost him.

BB: Hello?

[audio break]

I can pass you over to John here, and he'll introduce himself and give you some -- ask some questions for you.

FG: Yeah.

MS: Is it good morning? Guten tag?

FG: Guten tag.

MS: Yah.

FG: [unintelligible] afternoon. [unintelligible] 6:00 in the afternoon, in the evening.

MS: Oh. Okay. Okay. Well, my son is over in England right now. He's in -- going to

graduate school in Nottingham, England, so I know it's about five or six hours' difference.

FG: My daughter is in the states, in Pennsylvania by Pittsburg in Collinsville.

MS: Oh. Okay. Sure. Sure. Well, Pittsburgh, that has a lot of [20:00] German background.

FG: Collinsville is where she actually lives.

MS: Definitely. Well, Franz, I want to ask you a couple things here. There's some interesting things that I see in your history that you were part of that, if you could provide me --

FG: Okay.

MS: -- some information, I'd be -- I'd be very pleased. One thing I notice that you had joined [Das Reich \[20:31\]](#), the [2nd SS Panzer division \[20:34\]](#). Right?

FG: Yeah. Yeah.

MS: And you had went to school. You'd went to volksschule (elementary school) and then mittelschule (middle school). Ya?

FG: Yeah.

MS: And there you learned not only to be an automobile mechanic, but beyond that to take care of the heavy diesel engines for tanks, right?

FG: Yeah. Yeah. I went to tank school.

MS: Ah. Yeah.

FG: [unintelligible] It was the tank school. And they [21:00] -- in [Poland \[21:02\]](#) in [Poznan \[21:06\]](#) -- I made it Poznan [unintelligible] was the name, you know. It was the tank school. It was [unintelligible] in the tank school, and then I got promoted to this sergeant, and then the sergeant, and I got transferred to the division [Das Reich \[21:26\]](#) to [Kharkov \[21:28\]](#) in March '43.

MS: Can you tell me at Poznan, when you went to tank school, you were made a feldwebel



(sergeant), yah? Sergeant.

FG: Not a feldwebel, a sergeant.

MS: Ah. Okay.

FG: An unteroffizier.

MS: Oh. Unteroffizier. Okay. And --

FG: Unteroffizier, a sergeant.

MS: Well, what did they teach you at school? At tank school?

FG: The whole tank, you know. [unintelligible] [22:00] And then I learned to drive the tank.

The guns, you know, everything, every detail from the tank.

MS: So from my understanding, then, they basically taught you every position in the tank.

The gunner, the tank driver, the machine --

FG: Yeah. Gunner, driver, everything.

MS: Okay. That's pretty neat. Do you remember --

FG: As a commander, you see, of the tank, you can command the tank, you know. And you're responsible for four guys in the tank, then you know what to do, how to do it [unintelligible] exactly. You have to control them, and watch them, and tell them how to do it.

MS: Did you have radios in the tanks at that time?

FG: Yeah. I rode inside to speak and outside with a commander, with the company commander, you know.

MS: And normally --

FG: [23:00] My name was Kasten (box) Four.

MS: Box four.

FG: Kasten 4, Kasten 4 [spelled phonetically]. So when the company commander called you “Kasten 4, Kasten 4, kommen (come)”, I would say “here is kasten 4.”

MS: What kind of --

FG: I would get an order from him, you know.

MS: [affirmative] What kind of tank were you using at tank school? What do you know --

FG: In a P-4 [23:40].

MS: In a PZ-4? Panzer 4 [23:43]?

FG: Yeah. P-4, with the long gun, you know, with the 35 gun.

MS: Right. Thirty-five. Also, I noticed that you were in [24:00] the big tank battle at Kursk [24:03].

FG: I was in the Kursk. Yeah.

MS: What were you in -- you were in Das Reich [24:09] at that time?

FG: Yeah. They came, you see, then they attacked us, you know. [unintelligible] more than 400 tanks that came down at you, you know. They started shooting, you know, to knock them out.

MS: The -- the T-34s? That's what you were -- what were you in at that time? Were you actually commanding a tank at that point?

FG: Yeah. I was commanding the tank as the tank commander. The P-4.

MS: What -- of the -- of the Panzer 4 [24:45]. Were you -- was the tank hit?

FG: No. Not my -- I got three times hit, I think, but it was not that bad, you see. Only time is I got hit in the rear [25:00], you know. In the back wheel. And when I got hit, and I called the company commander. “I got hit,” you know, and [unintelligible]. He said, “okay, just get camouflaged,” you see, get secured. Be safe, you know, and then the

mechanica came, the truck, you know, and they put it on the roof, and they put us in the back, and about six hours later, it was already repaired, they got a new track and everything was good and I had to go again to the front of -- remove with the company.

MS: Oh, wow. That's pretty amazing. Well, I know that is really absolutely amazing experience to go through there. I've read a lot about what happened there [26:00].

FG: Yeah. Yeah.

MS: Do you have -- do you remember any --

FG: And then the last time, the third time, you know, I got hit by a T34. The Russian tank hit me. They -- but the bullet shell went through the gun. That was luck.

MS: I'm sorry. What did --

FG: It was lucky, you know.

MS: Oh.

FG: In the turret, you know, the bullet didn't come inside the tank, you know, so it went again outside, you know, and there was a flame, you know [unintelligible] the gunner was up there shouting, injured and all these things they got blowing around, so [27:00] -- and then I went in with the tank to the [unintelligible]--"I need a new turret."

MS: Sure.

FG: And the big repair company, but they were not doing any more repairs, they had no more turrets, nothing, they couldn't do nothing with the tank. So I had to leave the tank there, and we were again infantries, but without any tank, you know, and then we came from [unintelligible].

MS: Okay.

FG: We came from [unintelligible] to [unintelligible].

MS: Oh. Okay. Okay. Do you remember any of the men that you served with in the [28:00] tank there? Do you remember the names of these fellows?

FG: Yeah. There was [unintelligible]. I have to think now. I guess there was guy that was the driver was Schuster [28:27] [spelled phonetically].

MS: Schuster?

FG: Yeah. Thee gun man, he was --

MS: Where --

FG: Right now, I --

MS: Well, that's all right. One thing -- was anybody --

FG: I have to look in my book, because we stayed -- I got the addresses from them. Then we [29:00] kept [unintelligible] for a while in contact after the war. But right now I remember, you know, they all -- they died.

MS: Oh. Okay. Do you remember, was anybody in your tank wounded? Did you get wounded?

FG: No. Not -- I got a little piece in my head and they didn't take it out, you know.

MS: Yeah.

FG: [unintelligible]

MS: Wow. That's pretty amazing. Well, I also noticed that before you -- well, you -- after they -- after being in Russia [29:53], then you transferred to France [29:56] in 1944.

FG: Yeah. The whole [30:00] regiment went to France, to South France.

MS: Now, did you fly -- how did you get from Russia to France?

FG: Yeah. The train.

MS: Train?

- FG: Within the train. We come from Russia, from [unintelligible]. We went to **Russia** [30:22] on trucks, you know. And then from Russia on the train to South France.
- MS: Ah. Okay. Okay. And then you were reassigned to a different unit?
- FG: [unintelligible] And from Russia I went home to **Slovakia** [30:46]. I got a leave, you know, a twenty-one-day leave.
- MS: Okay.
- FG: Yeah. Twenty-one days leave we got, you know. And then we had to report in **France** [30:58].
- MS: Oh. Okay [31:00]. So you got some time off. That's good.
- FG: Yeah.
- MS: Especially after going through all that. So you went on to -- your unit was sent around **Bordeaux** [31:13], correct?
- FG: Yeah. **Toulouse** [31:17]. Toulouse.
- MS: In Toulouse. Right.
- FG: In Toulouse. Toulouse, you see, it was a mountain camp, we called it.
- MS: Were you still using **Panzer 4s** [31:30] at that time?
- FG: Yeah. Yeah.
- MS: Okay. And so you went back at being the tank commander of a Panzer 4 in France.
- FG: Yeah. Yeah.
- MS: Now, you had mentioned that in August of 1944, that's about the time that you were captured by the Allies.
- FG: Yeah. Yeah.
- MS: Your tank -- you say your tank became inoperable. Do you remember what happened to

it? Did the barrel overheat or the turret [32:00] not --

FG: The barrel was overheated, so I couldn't shoot. I could not shoot anymore, so we jumped out. We got out of the tank. We left the tank in the middle of the [unintelligible] and we sneak through the gardens in the forest out of it in the village.

MS: Right. And I know Brandon talked to you about --

(End of Tape 2A)

(Beginning of Tape 2B)

FG: And then there I got captured by the Americans.

MS: Yeah. Now, let's see -- I was going to ask you something else, and I forgot what it was. Oh, I'm always curious about the food that you were eating while you were on the front line. What were you eating on a daily basis? Like, for lunches or -- tell me a little bit about it daily, what you did in a -- on a typical day.

FG: Yeah, there was -- in the morning, you know, we got the -- we got coffee, not the real coffee, chicory coffee, you know?

MS: [affirmative]

FG: Coffee, two slices bread [01:00], little bit butter, and some roast, you see, salami, you know, or something on it. And for lunch there was a normal meal, you know, there was - - you had pea soup or even a meat [unintelligible] you know, potatoes and some potatoes and some vegetable; that was the lunch. And then evening [unintelligible] again, two slice of bread, and some bologna.

MS: Sure. Did you -- did you --

FG: And we got cigarettes; who didn't smoke, they got chocolates.

MS: Oh.

MS: Yeah, chocolates.

MS: I'm sure you also were able to take -- to have some of the French wine, from **Bordeaux** [01:56]?

FG: Yah, of course we were. We went out, [02:00] you know? And the guys in the guest house said, sure, we could go out. And I could go eat something.

MS: -- the guest house, yeah.

FG: [inaudible] they shoot us, you know, Fromage is cheese, you know. [inaudible]

MS: [laughs] oh, that's good. I don't -- do you guys have some more?

MS: Hang on just a minute, Franz. I'm going to pass you back [03:00] to Brandon -- wait a minute. I got one more question for you from Vince. Here, I'll give you to Vince. And Franz, it was very good talking to you. You've actually helped me out a lot. I've learned some more about --

FG: Yeah, okay.

MS: -- being a tank commander. All right, I'm going to give you to Vince. Hang on a minute.

VS: Franz, before we forget to ask you, you mentioned that you wrote a book, and we wanted to find out what that was all about. Did you ever publish the book? And is it only in German, or is there an English version? And how could we get a copy?

FG: In German only. A picture history of the **Camp King** [03:53]?

VS: Camp King? Okay.

FG: Camp King. It was the military intelligence in Camp King, you know [04:00]?  
Everything there only pictures.

MS: And so, are these photographs --

FG: I have a lot of pictures --

BB: These are photographs that you took, or you have?

FG: [inaudible] American photographs, you know? [inaudible] they put it this way, all the evidence [unintelligible] you know? The German photograph. So I just went to [unintelligible] and got some pictures because in those days I was already collecting the pictures.

BB: Okay.

FG: And then, even from the German [inaudible] there; there was a main office, so in the photograph, the American photograph, he was supposed to give me every picture.

MS: Okay. And [05:00] is that book still available? Is it still for sale?

FG: Yeah, I still have it, but now I'm thinking to print it, to get it on a print, like [unintelligible] until I get the money.

MS: Definitely. Did you write -- did you write --  
[talking simultaneously]

MS: -- or was -- did you write a different book as well, or is this the only book that you've written?

FG: Only -- I've written two; one is a picture book; you know? All the pictures, history in pictures, and the other one is the story about [Camp King \[05:49\]](#).

MS: Okay. So, in your book, you didn't write anything about your experiences at [1142 \[05:55\]](#), or seeing [Wernher von Braun \[05:58\]](#)?

FG: Yeah [06:00]. I've mentioned in the book [unintelligible] a picture from the town, you know? But I got it out of the internet about [Fort Hunt \[06:12\]](#).

MS: Okay. All right. Very good. I'm going to hand the phone back to Brandon. Thank you.

BB: Okay, Franz, well, thank you very much for that interlude. We're going to go back now.



If you -- if you still feel like you've got energy left, we'd like to keep talking about P.O. Box 1142 [06:35]. Do you still have a few more minutes for us?

FG: Oh, of course I do.

BB: Okay, terrific. Well, we were talking a little bit earlier about your time at P.O. Box 1142. Could we kind of start back at the beginning? What was your interrogation about when you were at P.O. Box 1142 [07:00]? What information did they try to get from you?

FG: [unintelligible]. About the company, the division, the action, the fighting and even, you know, the names of the officer or the commander, company commander, and so on.

BB: So, specific information about who commanded the companies?

FG: Yeah.

MS: Okay.

FG: [unintelligible] the commander of the company, and even the platoon commander [unintelligible].

MS: Did they ask you any technical questions about the tanks?

FG: No, they didn't ask technical questions.

MS: So, nothing about how the tanks worked, or what kind of guns they had?

FG: No. [08:00] They asked about the guns, they had two machine guns, you know, one in the turret and one in the communicator, you know.

MS: Okay.

FG: One was in the turret, with the canon, you know?

BB: Okay

FG: One in the [unintelligible] machine guns, you know? And [unintelligible].

BB: But did they ask you about that at 1142 [08:21], or did they -- do you think they already

knew that?

FG: [unintelligible] they already knew this probably [unintelligible].

BB: Right. And how -- were you interrogated once, or one more than occasion?

FG: There were two times or three.

BB: Were you interrogated --

FG: [inaudible] When I went in the interrogation there, the interrogator, he asked me, what you want here, you see? What's the matter? Why you come and -- doing here [09:00]? Why do you want here? I said, I don't know. I didn't come by myself. I thought we were talking and talking about it, and suddenly, he asked me, you want to go on vacation? So he pushed the push the button, and the guards came in, and okay, [unintelligible] come on, boy, so he took me into the kitchen, and he introduced me to the mess sergeant. I guess **Smith [09:32]** was the -- Smith was his name [unintelligible].

BB: Okay.

FG: And then I was a dishwasher, washing dishes. And outside the camp, you see, outside they had the building in the forest, in the direction to the Potomac River and the huts, the\_ wooden barracks.

BB: Okay [10:00]. We'll get to that in a minute. Back to your interrogation. About how long did your interrogation last for? Was it short, or was it long?

FG: No, it was not long. It was a very short interrogation. It was -- I would say maybe minutes, I cannot know exactly [unintelligible] --

BB: Sure, sure. That's okay.

FG: I recall half an hour or --

BB: Was it with just one?

FG: [unintelligible]

BB: Was it just --

FG: As I said, you know, he was surprised at me, all right. He asked me, what the hell you want here? [unintelligible], and I said, I don't know. I still think it was a mistake you know?

BB: So, you don't think you should've been sent there. You think you were -- do you think you were too low ranking to be sent there?

FG: Yeah. I was too low ranking you know? [unintelligible] you know? It was [11:00] [unintelligible] and I was a sergeant you know?

BB: Right.

FG: And maybe [unintelligible] got me out of the camp into the group, so [unintelligible] because I was already there, they are only sergeant grade, the other ones on the plane, they were all generals; they were all higher ranking officers.

BB: Right.

FG: I think it was picked because I was in [Slovakia \[11:45\]](#). I know they want [unintelligible].

BB: Did they ask --

FG: [unintelligible] Slovakia, and they're Americans, you know? With the same intention to support the Slovaks [12:00] but they were sleeping, you know? The Russians got there first.

BB: So, did they ask you -- at [1142 \[12:11\]](#), were you questioned about [Slovakia \[12:13\]](#)?

FG: Yeah.

BB: Okay. So, they talked to you about Slovakia and about the organization of your tank

company?

FG: Of the tank, of the unit, you see, the division commander; it was Dr. Hausser, **General Hausser [12:33]** was the commander of the division **Das Reich [12:37]**.

BB: Okay. And so, your interrogation at **Fort Hunt [12:42]**, do you remember anything about the American who was asking you questions? Do -- can -- did he speak fluent German?

FG: Yeah. I guess the German -- spoke perfectly German [13:00], you know? I know that Mr. Halle -- **Colonel Halle [13:07]**; captain, he was a captain. Captain Halle, Captain [unintelligible], Captain [unintelligible], **Captain Erikson [13:16]**, they all -- and Captain were introduced or known when I was bartender already because these guys, they [unintelligible] between **Fort Hunt [13:31]** and Camp King and they moved scientists, and all these people, you know, when the war was over.

BB: So, you said, these -- the Americans that you named, they traveled back and forth between **Fort Hunt [13:50]**.

FG: [unintelligible] Fort Hunt to **Camp King [13:54]**.

BB: Okay. And what -- did you know [14:00] at the time what they were doing? Why they were traveling there?

FG: They talked to us - - guys, when you come home, don't take anything. Just take cigarettes. Cigarettes is the money in Germany now, so when I went and came back, you see, I had received hundreds of cartons of cigarettes. I was the richest man in [unintelligible].

BB: So -- sorry.

FG: On the black market, I could afford everything.

VS: Franz? When we --

FG: Yeah.

VS: -- when we spoke with you previously -- this is Vince again. When we spoke with you previously, briefly, a few days ago, you had said -- you made a reference that 1142 [14:50] and Camp King [14:51] were sister camps.

FG: Yeah.

MS: Can you explain what you mean by that?

FG: Yeah, Camp King, that was [15:00] in -- I got there in all the high ranking Germans, you know, from the government [unintelligible], the government in there interrogated, some of them worked with the Americans, you know. All of the Nuremberg [15:23] trial, you know, like Krempele [15:28] when he was returning for trial at Nuremberg.

MS: So, the Krempele that you're referencing was both at 1142 [15:45], and he was at Nuremberg [15:48]?

FG: Yeah. In -- from Camp King [15:54] they were arrested and from Camp King they went to Nuremberg.

MS: Okay. And can you explain a little bit about who Krempele [16:09] was?

FG: Krempele was -- yeah, he was a [inaudible] at the Nuremberg trial.

MS: And Krempele Templar was also --

FG: [unintelligible] Krempele went to Nuremberg [16:32] [unintelligible].

MS: And Krempele [16:38] was also at Camp King [16:40] and at 1142 [16:42]?

FG: No, he was not at 1142.

MS: Not at 1142. Okay. That's how --

FG: No, he was not there.

MS: Okay. Thank you.

FG: Not according to me.

MS: Okay. I'm going to give Brandon back the phone.

FG: But I did see his son, his son [17:00] at 1142 [17:03].

MS: Who was at 1142?

FG: Krempel's [17:07] son.

MS: Krempel's son was at 1142?

FG: Yeah, he was at 1142, I guess, and then they went back home, we were supposed to meet at the boat I met him, you know?

MS: And so, I guess, since we can -- we'll talk some more about 1142. How long were you there as the bartender at the officer's mess?

FG: I would say, for quite more than a year.

MS: Okay. And --

FG: [unintelligible] that was only a short time as a dish washer and a short time at the mess hall in the [18:00] dining room, and then I became a bartender.

BB: And while you were doing this, you lived in one of the huts near the river?

FG: Yeah, we lived in the outside of this -- of this camp, of this compound. In the forest there were some huts [unintelligible]...even General ...Gehlen was there.

MS: Did General --

FG: [unintelligible]

BB: Now, did Gehlen [18:26] live --

FG: [unintelligible]

MS: Did General Gehlen -- did General Gehlen live in the same hut that you did, or just one of the other huts?

FG: Oh, [unintelligible] we could move wrong; [unintelligible] the huts [unintelligible].

BB: So, you would move around to the different huts, so you could stay at whatever hut you wanted to?

FG: Yeah, then we went to [19:00] [unintelligible].

BB: So, who -- were the people that you were within these huts, were they working in the kitchen? Or were they being there to be interrogated?

FG: Oh, they were from different - -they were the waitress in the dining room, one was in the laundry, and the supply.

MS: Had all of them already been interrogated, like you?

FG: Yeah.

MS: Okay, so, they were all --

FG: We were all interrogated.

MS: So, they were all in similar situations, where they had been interrogated, and then the Americans decided to keep them, to use them as workers at 1142 [19:52]?

FG: Yeah, that's right, that's right.

MS: Okay.

FG: Maybe it was a [20:00] [unintelligible].

BB: And this group that you were with, did you live with the same group the whole time you were at 1142 [20:17]? Or did you change roommates?

FG: No, we [unintelligible] one was from Austria and -- I don't know the other one.

MS: Yeah, do you -- do you --

FG: [unintelligible]

MS: So, do you remember any of their names?

- FG: Yeah. Yeah, like I said **Papaki [20:58]** [spelled phonetically] was one.
- MS: Could you [21:00] --
- FG: He was from [unintelligible] in Germany.
- MS: Could you go through them one at a time? What was the first one? The name of the first one?
- FG: **Papaki [21:12]**.
- MS: Could you --
- FG: P-A-P-A-K-E [sic], Papaki was one. There was another one, Feeder. He was the cook.
- BB: So, you said -- Papaki? Am I hearing this right, the first name?
- FG: **Papaki [21:50]**. P-A-P-A-K-I.
- BB: And M is -- the very [22:00] first letter? Is that a P, as in peanut? Or a D, as in devil?
- FG: A P. P as in Power, P as in Power.
- BB: Okay, P as in --
- FG: [unintelligible]
- BB: P as in power. A as in apple --
- FG: Papaki.
- BB: So, P-A-P-A-K-I?
- FG: Yeah.
- BB: Okay. And then, you said, another prisoner you were with? His name was **Martin Merdenes [22:37]**?
- FG: [unintelligible] M-E-R-D-E-N-E-S, Merdenes.
- BB: Okay. And do you remember any other things?
- FG: **Feeder [22:54]**, he was the cook.



BB: You said Feidler, with an F [23:00]? Like, fox?

FG: Yeah, he was the cook there in the kitchen, chief cook.

BBS: Okay. So -- and what did Papaki [23:17] and Merdenes [23:18] do? What were their jobs?

FG: Merdenes, -- what he can do, he was already [unintelligible] you know? He [unintelligible] the [unintelligible] something broken, a couch or a stool or something [unintelligible]. He was in the werkstatt (workshop).

BB: So, he --

FG: [unintelligible] you know?

BB: He repaired things. Okay.

FG: Yeah, yeah. He was repairing, in the shop [24:00], you know. In the repair shop.

MS: And what did -- what did Papaki [24:04] do?

FG: Papaki, he worked in the laundry.

MS: In the laundry, okay.

FG: He was in the laundry

MS: And so, all --

FG: Feidler [24:17] was cook.

BB: He was the cook, and you were the bartender.

FG: I was the bartender.

MS: And so, all four of you lived together in one of the huts. If it was this --

FG: Yeah, we were living in the huts, yeah, we were.

MS: Okay. And how -- did you -- you had mentioned the other day, when we spoke on the phone the other day that you knew that German scientists and rocket scientists were

coming through 1142 [24:48]. How did you know that?

FG: We -- I didn't know that, at the time, you know? But we didn't care [25:00] who was in there, you know, who was coming; they didn't talk to us, you know, these German guys [inaudible] talking about, we were talking to the American Army, so Captain Halle [25:21] and [unintelligible], when he was at the bar, you know.

BB: And how -- you mentioned, the other when we spoke on the phone, that you saw Wernher von Braun [25:40] at 1142 [25:42]. Can you -- can you describe --

FG: I remember, you see [unintelligible] when I came over here to do the history, I [unintelligible] [26:00] -- I remember, in my eyes, seeing him.

BB: And so, did you know at the time who it was? Until -- or not until after the war?

FG: I just asked around, you see. At the time, I didn't know what kind -- what they did or who they are. I just approached them to see how they looked like. I remember.

MS: Do you remember how long Wernher von Braun [26:38] was at 1142 [26:41]?

FG: There were a few days he was there.

MS: Okay. With --

FG: Only a few days, you see, and then they left.

MS: Was he with a group of people, or by himself?

FG: With a group of people [unintelligible] bunch.

MS: Okay.

FG: But that one was different people brought in you see [unintelligible]. These guys, they went by [unintelligible] 1142 [27:13] and Camp King [27:16] they brought him over, you know? [unintelligible]

BB: So, you got the impression that Captain Halle [27:24] [spelled phonetically] and others

brought people like Wernher von Braun [27:28] from Oberhausen [27:30] to 1142 [27:33]?

FG: Yeah, yeah.

BB: Okay. I just want to make sure that we were understanding that.

FG: Yeah, yeah.

MS: Could you give us any sense of how many German prisoners and German scientists and engineers were being brought through 1142 [27:55]? Was it hundreds, or thousands, or just a handful? Did you know any idea how [28:00] many came through?

FG: Yeah, I don't know [unintelligible], how many, or -- I don't know the [unintelligible] I didn't see, you know?

MS: Okay.

FG: The bar was always full.

MS: You said it was always full?

FG: Yeah, it was twenty or thirty men at the bar, you know.

BB: So, were they eating in the mess hall?

FG: No, the dining room.

MS: In the -- okay, the dining room. So, the Germans, they got to eat in the dining room there at 1142 [28:42].

FG: At the dining room we had there.

MS: Did you ever serve them at the bar? Were they allowed to go to the bar?

FG: Yeah, they came at the bar [unintelligible] scotch and soda, or bourbon and soda, or something like [29:00] beer [unintelligible].

BB: Did you talk to them about why they were there, or were they secretive about that?

FG: Oh, no. You're not allowed to talk to them.

MS: Okay. And so, let's see -- do you have any other questions [inaudible]?

FG: In those days, I didn't know who they are, you know.

MS: Just a couple of other questions. You say that **Wernher von Braun [29:36]** had a broken arm, and you saw him there --

FG: Yeah.

BB: -- for several days. And he stayed at the camp. How many times did you --

FG: Yeah.

MS: -- how many times did you see von Braun?

FG: I wouldn't know [30:00] how he looked like, and after the war [unintelligible] books published about Wernher von Braun and on the internet.

MS: Sure. Did --

FG: But **Wernher von Braun [30:23]**.

MS: -- did you see him in the --

FG: [unintelligible]

BB: I understand. Did you see him in the dining hall?

FG: Yeah.

BB: Did you see him in the **officer's club [30:37]**?

FG: And in the bar.

MS: You saw him in the officer's club?

FG: Yeah, they came in from the dining room in the evening after their supper, and they came out to the bar.

BB: Okay.

FG: [unintelligible] drink, and then they went to be [unintelligible].

MS: And when you say the bar, do you mean the **officer's club [30:57]**?

FG: Yeah, in the officer's club [31:00], yeah.

BB: Officer's -- so, this German scientist had privileges to the officer's club?

FG: Yeah, there were certain [unintelligible] from the Germans.

MS: Okay. Did somebody like **Gehlen [31:16]** have privileges at the officer's club?

FG: Yeah, Gehlen, he was [unintelligible].

MS: And did you know, did **von Braun [31:33]** stay in one of the small huts? Or did he stay --

FG: No, I don't know what they -- they tried to put [unintelligible] in the compound  
[unintelligible].

MS: And did they have civilian clothes, or did they have any other -- did they have prisoner --

FG: Civilian clothes, yeah.

MS: Civilian clothes.

FG: Some of them were even in uniforms, you know [32:00]?

MS: Okay. And I think we need to change tapes, so we're going to go ahead and change the  
tape, and I'll hand the phone back over to Brandon.

(End of Tape 2B)

(Beginning of Tape 3A)

CHRIS VON SCHONING: [speaks German, good morning/afternoon]

FG: Yeah.

CS: This is Chris here.

FG: Yes, okay.

CS: [speaks German] Kevin -- I have here three nice gentlemen, Kevin, David and Vince and

they would like to ask some more questions.

FG: Yeah.

CS: -- David, and Vince. [speaks German]

FG: Okay, [speaks German].

CS: [speaks German] Vince [speaks German]. First is Vince who will speak with you.

FG: Yeah.

CS: Yeah. Vince will speak to you in English.

FG: [speaks German] Yes, please.

CS: Vince [speaks German] of English.

FG: Yeah.

CS: Yeah, one minute.

FG: Yeah [speaks German].

CS: Yeah [speaks German].

VS: Hello Mr. Gajdosch.

FG: Hello. How are you?

VS: Very well. Sorry to hear that you were in the hospital [01:00].

FG: Yeah, I was three weeks in the hospital. But now I'm back home.

VS: You're feeling better?

FG: I'm sitting here in front of the computer and I look [unintelligible] the pictures  
[unintelligible].

VS: We're glad that you're better now.

FG: [unintelligible] [speaks German]

VS: So are you ready to chat a little bit more about [P.O. Box 1142](#) [01:50]?

FG: Yeah.

VS: Okay.

FG: [speaks German] [02:00], you know? Not any more than it looks, you know?

CS: [affirmative]

VS: I didn't fully understand. Could you repeat that again, please?

FG: Those photos, you know? And it comes, you know, [speaks German]. There was a family living in the area [unintelligible], you know? [unintelligible]

VS: Okay, I'll come back and ask you about that family living there.

FG: You know, [unintelligible]. You know, I know them, and [03:00] in the Army there were two girls [unintelligible], you know, they moved to **Washington, DC [03:06]**, you know? And I know. And, you know, - - so they tried to talk to us, you know? But they didn't move. [unintelligible] G.I. [unintelligible], you know?

VS: Yes. We'll come back.

FG: [unintelligible]

VS: Mr. Gajdosch, we'll come back and talk about that in a moment.

FG: Okay.

VS: What I just wanted to do is to give a brief introduction at the beginning of the tape. And then what we're going to do is we're going to go back and try to talk a little bit more about 1142. And then we're going to talk about after **1142 [03:55]** and **Camp King [03:56]**.

FG: Okay.

VS: Okay, very good [04:00]. Let me just give a quick introduction. And how do you pronounce your name again?

CS: Chris.

VS: Your last name?

CS: Von Schoning.

VS: Okay. All right Mr. Gajdosch. Thank you again for your time. Today is Monday October 25th 2010. And we are conducting an interview by telephone with Mr. Gajdosch who was a POW at P.O. Box 1142 during the Second World War. This is part of the Fort Hunt oral history project. My name is Vince Santucci. I'm the Chief Ranger at the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Accompanying me today in Virginia at the GWMP Headquarters is Ranger David Lassman, Ranger Kevin Butler, and our assistant Chris von Schoning [05:00]. So Mr. Gajdosch --

FG: Yes, sir.

VS: -- are you ready to begin?

FG: Yeah.

VS: This is the second -- this is the third actual interview in a series of interviews with Mr. Gajdosch. And --

FG: Thank you.

VS: We still have a little bit to talk about in terms of [P.O. Box 1142 \[05:21\]](#). And so what we wanted to do is to go back and talk about the officer's quarters. Can you tell us about the [officer's quarters \[05:35\]](#)?

FG: Yes. There was the officer's quarters that used to be at the other -- I don't know. There was a base there. And they told me, "Sorry." But I know. But the [06:00] officer's quarters they used to lift them up the -- I don't know what they were, where they had been, you know? [unintelligible]



VS: And so how do you know about the officer's quarters? Did you work there?

FG: There was the **officer's club** [06:30].

VS: And were you ever inside of the Officer's Club?

FG: Yeah. Yeah. It was located on the road to [07:00] **Alexandria** [07:02].

VS: Could you repeat that please?

FG: The -- in '92 I was visiting, you know, but there was nothing left anymore from the former camp.

VS: Yes, that's correct.

FG: You know?

VS: Did you work in the **Officer's Club** [07:31] at all?

FG: I --

VS: You had mentioned at one point that --

FG: I cannot remember, my memory, you know? Only it was close to Washington, but to the **Potomac River** [07:57]. We used to go [08:00] to the Potomac River.

VS: Okay. And when you say, "You used to go." Did you go with others?

FG: No. Even with my comrades, you know, and the whole thing. It used to [unintelligible] in wooden huts, you know? I think in my picture, you know, by email, there was some wooden huts, you know, we were always scared in the forest there [unintelligible] wooden huts and all wood scatter in the forest there. And all that was in fun, maybe but [unintelligible] **Potomac River** [08:49].

VS: And when you visited the Potomac River with your comrades, were your comrades other German prisoners [09:00]?

FG: They were -- they are other Americans, you know? And I don't know, I cannot

remember right now, you know, the names. But I have the names written down, you know?

VS: But you had the freedom to go to the river without an American soldier with you?

FG: Yeah. I mean I was a -- I was the same, you see, we sneaked [unintelligible]. We lived in the valley, there was no control over us. They couldn't [unintelligible]. We could move, we could move all over. They went to the [unintelligible], you know [10:00], and they tell them about it.

VS: Did you have to --

FG: They call me [unintelligible], you know?

VS: Was there a fence between your hut and the [Potomac River \[10:13\]](#)?

FG: Yeah. I went to the Potomac River, you know, and -- but it was a matter of time to Washington, you know? They are our sponsor, you know? The sergeant or the captain got a car and drove us everywhere. We went to the [Arlington Cemetery \[10:41\]](#), the memorial, you know, and all over, you know? A lot of things they showed us.

VS: Okay.

FG: And over. And if something happened, you know? We drove in an open car, you know [11:00]? And in [Washington \[11:05\]](#), you know, the [military police \[11:07\]](#) had stopped the car, you know, because they could [unintelligible] us. We looked not like G.I.s so they stopped the car, you know, and I said, "Okay."

VS: Mr. Gajdosch, whenever you went outside of [P.O. Box 1142 \[11:40\]](#), did you have to go through -- go past the fence or through a gate?

FG: No. There was no fence, there was not gate.

VS: So you could walk from your hut to the [Potomac River \[11:57\]](#)?

- FG: We walked to [12:00] -- a hundred yards or something like this with a car.
- VS: And did the **military police** [12:07] --
- FG: [unintelligible], you know?
- VS: Okay. Did the military police know that you went to the **Potomac River** [12:15]?
- FG: Excuse me. Yeah, they didn't bother us, you know?
- VS: So you went to the Potomac River without the United States Army knowing that you were doing this?
- FG: Yeah.
- VS: Okay. How about when you went to **Washington** [12:45]?
- FG: That's correct, that's true
- VS: When you went to Washington, did the Army know that you were leaving the camp?
- FG: Yeah, of course. With a [13:00] sponsor, you know? There was a sergeant or an officer, and took him in the car, you know, and they showed us -- Arlington cemetery [unintelligible].
- VS: Well that sounds very nice. It also sounds very unusual since you were a prisoner that they would treat you so nicely. Can you explain that?
- FG: You know, it's -- I guess they're not interested in the prisoners anymore. You know, it was [unintelligible] basic camps.
- VS: And so when [14:00] they took you to **Washington** [14:02] --
- FG: Yes.
- VS: -- did they take you to -- did they take you to lunch or dinner?
- FG: Oh yeah, I mean -- they took us out to dinner. In a restaurant. Or the movies.
- VS: When they did this was it a reward to you?

FG: Yeah. It was very nice.

VS: And so did they -- did they take you into [Washington \[14:36\]](#) as a gift for being good?

FG: I don't know -- yeah. [unintelligible], you see. [unintelligible] the American prisoners in Germany, you know, and they do [unintelligible], you know? And then they [15:00] [unintelligible], you know, [unintelligible] they could go to the church, you know? And [unintelligible] without any escort, they could do that, go over to the church.

VS: You could go to church without an escort?

FG: [unintelligible] my interpreter, of course, you know? [unintelligible] American [unintelligible]. You see, in German [16:00] [unintelligible] it wasn't -- they called it a dumard, D-U-M-R-D. You see, in German -- [unintelligible]. So English pilots any [unintelligible], they got shot down, you know? And they got captured, so they brought them to the dumard. And then from the units of the dumard, and then from the dumard they got in the camp. And, of course, the same [unintelligible], you know, [unintelligible] local law maker [unintelligible] the camp. But we, you know, we belong to the crew in the camp, you know? To the spot.

VS: Since you were a prisoner at [1142 \[16:52\]](#) for a long time, did --

FG: Three years.

VS: --- did you become friends with any Americans [17:00]?

FG: Yeah, of course. Which [unintelligible] you know?

VS: And --

FG: And [unintelligible], you know? There was -- and the clothes were brought to me.

VS: So would you say that the Americans generally treated you very good?

FG: Yeah, of course. Very good. There was nothing to see [unintelligible], you know?

VS: Did they treat you good because they liked you? Or did they treat you good because you helped the Americans?

FG: Yes, probably, I -- it was because I helped the Americans.

VS: And how did you [18:00] help the Americans?

FG: You know, I can't tell you. I think anything that I knew, when they asked me, I told them, you know? I was in the SS, the **Waffen-SS** [18:19].

VS: You were in the Waffen-SS?

FG: Yeah.

VS: Yes.

FG: And mostly they were interested in the division I was in, das Reich. And the tank division.

VS: Yes.

FG: [unintelligible] with **Russian front** [18:48], you know? With the Russians [unintelligible].

VS: So from our research, most prisoners stayed at **P.O. Box 1142** [19:00] for a very short time.

FG: Oh yeah.

VS: But you stayed -- you stayed there longer than most German prisoners.

FG: Yeah, because, you see, I belonged to this staff at **Fort Hunt** [19:16].

VS: You were part of the staff at Fort Hunt?

FG: Yeah. I worked at Fort Hunt. But the prisoners there, you know, [unintelligible] it become part, you know? [unintelligible], you know, they went to the basic camp, but you didn't go to the basic camp, you know?

VS: So if you were --

FG: [unintelligible], you know, at **Fort Hunt [19:50]**.

VS: And what was your job at Fort Hunt?

FG: Yeah, I was a dish washer. I started with the dishes, you see. When I [20:00] came in from Fort Hunt, I got interrogated [unintelligible], I got interrogated, you know? And then [unintelligible] the interrogator, he asked me, you want another role in the kitchen? I said, "Sure we'll [unintelligible]. When do I start," and so we pushed the button, and the guard came and, "Okay, [unintelligible] in the kitchen." And he introduced me to the cook, [unintelligible] me to the dishwasher. So I washed the dishes. And I asked my sponsor, you see, everything [unintelligible] a sponsor. [unintelligible] was my sponsor. If he can get me some books to learn English [21:00]. He said, "Okay [unintelligible] books [unintelligible]." And I started learning English. And you know I learned to speak English, so I got promoted, so they took me from the dish washer into the dining room. So I was serving to the officers the food. But there was a bar there, too. And then, later, I became the bartender. So I stayed right behind the bar, [unintelligible], you know? And then the war was over. So they [unintelligible] **Fort Hunt [21:54]**. And they brought German scientists, you know? [22:00] With **Wernher von Braun [22:01]** and all these people came there, you see? And therefore [unintelligible], you know? And then, in '46, they closed the POs, you know? [unintelligible] so I, because I worked at the bar, you know, and the officers were not [unintelligible], you know? I [unintelligible] and they came from **Camp King [22:49]** [unintelligible], you see, with **Fort Hunt [22:53]**, these scientists, you know? And then [unintelligible] [23:00] when you go to Germany, they did not [unintelligible]. You won't believe it. I had a hundred cartons of cigarettes, so I

became a VIP. All the prisoners had [unintelligible]. But I became a VIP and I [unintelligible] German [unintelligible], you know? [unintelligible] German, you know? [unintelligible] [24:00]

VS: Okay.

FG: And the [unintelligible], you know? About the three trucks. Or the trucks that [unintelligible].

VS: Mr. Gajdosch?

FG: [unintelligible]

VS: Mr. Gajdosch?

CS: [speaks German]

FG: [unintelligible] was his name. And the [unintelligible] in France [unintelligible] bartender [unintelligible] but the Germans only came over [unintelligible] so they took me [25:00] in the [long portion unintelligible] --

VS: Mr. Gajdosch?

FG: -- for the bartender.

VS: Okay, very good. Let's go back to 1142 [25:19] though. We don't want to move on too quickly.

FG: Yeah.

VS: You had mentioned a couple times in your discussion -- you used the word, "the basic camp." What do you mean by that?

FG: The basic camp where all the prisoners went.

VS: So the prisoner --

FG: In basic camp, you see, all low-light [spelled phonetically] in the United States. It

seemed like it's [unintelligible], too. **Fort Hunt [25:55]** was only an interrogation camp, you know [26:00]? It was not a basic camp for [unintelligible] the prisoners did not stay there for a long time, you know. When they got interviewed, they ship them to the basic camp, in Alabama - - -

VS: And that's why it's so interesting that you were at **1142 [26:28]** for so long.

FG: Yeah. I don't know. Yeah.

VS: Did you do any other jobs helping the Americans perhaps with interrogation?

FG: No, I had no other job. They were the only ones I worked. A bartender and a waiter and a dish washer there.

VS: Okay. And so --

FG: That's just it.

VS: -- you [27:00] also used --

FG: And that's why I came to **Fort Hunt [27:05]**. The first interrogation, is asked me where do you come from. I said I come from **Slovakia [27:20]**, you know? I come from Smolnik. What you say? You come from Smolnik? Yes, sir. Do you know the mountain? I said, I was up there, four or five times because the Americans [28:00] there in **Slovakia [28:02]**, you know, 1944 there was the outrage. They [unintelligible] likely to support for so long. [unintelligible] to **Munich [28:14]**, you know? This [unintelligible], you know, this peak, there was a plateau. And the Russians, they landed there with the planes and they supported the partisans. [unintelligible]

VS: Okay. So Mr. Gajdosch? Mr. Gajdosch?

FG: Yeah.

VS: Wanted to ask you another question.



FG: Yeah.

VS: You referenced the word, “sponsor,” several times. Can you tell us what a sponsor is? It that an American?

FG: Yeah [29:00]. A sponsor is the American [unintelligible] military person there; he would be in charge in order -- an officer. And he was responsible for each prisoner, the POW [29:23], you know. If you were sick and need something, you have to go to somebody to speak to somebody, you know? And that was the sponsor.

VS: Do you remember the name of your sponsor?

FG: [unintelligible]. It was Kempe.

VS: Could you repeat that?

CS: [speaks German], captain? Please say it again, Captain?

FG: Captain Kempe [29:50] [spelled phonetically].

CS: [speaks German]

FG: [30:00] [speaks German] and he was a farmer. And he asked me -- to stay. And I wanted to go home. I didn't want to stay there.

VS: Okay. At 1142 [30:26] --

FG: He would take me to at his farm and then I could work there on his farm.

VS: Okay. Back to 1142, did your sponsor help to teach you English? It sounds like he helped you?

FG: Yeah. He gives me simple dictionary to learn the language.

VS: And did he do this because he was [31:00] -- he liked you? He was being --

FG: [unintelligible] because he was my sponsor, you know? And I have to say he was [unintelligible].

VS: Okay.

FG: Of course he [unintelligible], you know? But he did it because he was responsible, you know. I asked him, "Why did you do that?"

VS: Okay. Mr. Gajdosch it looks like we might need to change -- turn the tape over. So we'll hold up just for a second. The next question I'm going to ask you will have to do with any of the German scientists. So before you speak, let's just change the tape.

(End of Tape 3A)

(Beginning of Tape 3B)

FG: [unintelligible] I didn't care, you see. No, so German Nazis [00:16], you know, and the German general, okay, but really are you going to be asking the general did I [unintelligible].

MS: So, we talked about --

FG: [unintelligible] in technical. We weren't [unintelligible], you know, and there was nothing to be learned by it --

MS: And --

FG: -- [unintelligible].

MS: We talked about -- a little bit about this before, but I wanted to check with you again. Do you remember seeing Wernher von Braun [00:53]?

FG: Yes, but those Germans, you see -- I would know they [01:00] were very [unintelligible] or what they are, you know, but then after they were brought [unintelligible], and I remember that, you see, that it was Wernher von Braun [01:13] there.

MS: And you saw him at 1142 [01:17]?

FG: Yes.

MS: And do you -- do you know where you saw him? Was he in a building? Was he outside?

FG: No, you see, he -- they lived in the generals' area. They -- because he was part of the area, you know.

MS: Could you repeat that please?

FG: Yes, they [unintelligible] uniform. I think that they pushed him to [unintelligible], and they wanted him to [unintelligible] [02:00] [unintelligible]. They would bring the prisoners in a room and von Braun [02:12] would be on the floor, you know, the whole thing. Other prisoners were in [unintelligible].

BB: And you feel very certain that you saw Wernher von Braun?

FG: Yes, I didn't know who he was at that time -- who he was.

MS: And how did you determine later that it was Wernher von Braun [02:42]?

FG: You see, I didn't care, you know, who was important at the bar. There were a lot of people who came, you know, but him, you know. I still remember, you see, there was a guy [unintelligible] in the -- in the [03:00] -- that day, you know, but they're not taking a leave. I don't know who [unintelligible]. You couldn't [unintelligible], but all the books, you know, and so forth, and I said, "Aha. It was him, von Braun" [unintelligible].

MS: And you mentioned that you also saw Reinhard Gehlen [03:30] at 1142 [03:31].

FG: Yeah, Gehlen -- because I don't do this, you know. It was the general.

MS: And do you know him from --

FG: In a hard man's life [unintelligible] you know.

MS: Was he at 1142?

FG: Yeah.

MS: Okay, and then you mentioned another name, Ashtum [spelled phonetically].

FG: Because he worked there, you see [04:00], in the -- in the woods -- in the forest, so he came [unintelligible], but not apologizing [unintelligible], you know. I spoke to him [unintelligible]. He said, "I'm a general, you know" [unintelligible].

MS: So you spoke with Gehlen [04:20]?

FG: Yeah, Gehlen.

MS: And do you remember anything else about your conversation with Gehlen?

FG: No, it was no conversation, you know. He was a general, you know [unintelligible]. I had to stand at attention for him, you know. He was a general, you know, and I was only a soldier.

MS: Was Gehlen in his uniform [05:00]?

FG: No. He was not -- no. He had this [unintelligible] in his uniform.

MS: He did wear his uniform at 1142 [05:20].

FG: Yeah, yeah.

MS: Okay, I'm just going to digress for a moment. What was the uniform that you wore when you were working at --

FG: The GI uniform.

MS: American or German.

FG: The -- no -- GI uniform. They gave me the uniform and gave me stripes, you know, on the sleeves.

MS: Okay, and --

FG: If a stranger looked at me, he wouldn't recognize me. He's just GI [06:00].

MS: Okay, and when you went to Washington, D.C. [06:04] and Arlington Cemetery [06:06] -

-

FG: Yeah.

MS: -- what type of clothing did you wear?

FG: Yeah, the GI -- the change is not [unintelligible], you know.

MS: Okay.

FG: The gray uniform.

MS: Okay, great, thank you. I'm going to ask you a question to see if you ever heard this term before. Have you ever heard the term "stoolpigeon [06:28]?"

FG: Beg your pardon?

BB: Have you ever heard of the term "stoolpigeon"?

FG: A stoolpigeon, yes, I mean -- it seems it [unintelligible]. I knew all about the stoolpigeons [06:53].

MS: What is a stoolpigeon?

FG: A stoolpigeon is a [07:00] -- is a prisoner, you know -- who talks with them then reports the stuff.

BB: Were there any stoolpigeons [07:19] at 1142 [07:21]?

FG: I don't know, you see, but I guess so, you see. They had -- when I got to post, and I came in the room where I was to live, and he already started to ask where I was from, and I said "Oh, shut up [08:00], you know. I'm not going to talk to you anymore. I know -- I know you are a stoolpigeon [08:06]," I guess, you know. I got [unintelligible] in the room with the [unintelligible] reading, you know, and I didn't talk to him. The next thing, they took me out of this room and they put me in the other -- in the single room, you know, for myself.

BB: Do you have any other information on stoolpigeons at 1142?

FG: No, I -- just -- I -- they [unintelligible] a few. They [unintelligible] who were [unintelligible], you know, to [09:00] [unintelligible] -- I came out of the cage, you know, and he stated, you know [unintelligible].

BB: Did you ever hear of the name of a German prisoner? He was on a **U-boat [09:26]**. His name was Wernher --

FG: Yeah --

BB: Wernher --

FG: -- I know the guy.

MS: -- Wernher --

FG: -- because --

BB: -- **Wernher Dreshler [09:33]** [spelled phonetically]?

FG: They -- I remember only that he was a U boat captain because he showed up there, you know, the lunch, you know, and I was in the kitchen, you know. But there was a rumor at the lunch [unintelligible], you see, about the things [10:00] that happened in the upper floor, and I knew, you know, it was a **U-boat [10:07]** captain, you know. I got their [unintelligible]. I thought it would [unintelligible], but I don't know his name is [unintelligible] U-boat captain.

BB: And did you ever hear the name **Wernher Henke [10:27]**?

FG: What?

MS: Wernher Henke.

FG: No.

MS: U-boat captain?

FG: No.

BB: And you say that you served a U-boat [10:40] captain who was a prisoner?

FG: Yah, he was a U-boat captain [unintelligible], you know, they were the guys, you know, who said he was a U boat captain. And I wasn't allowed to talk to the guys up there, I came and knocked on the door and handed him the tray with the food.

MS: You said that this U-boat captain was on the second floor?

FG: No, the upper floor.

MS: Upper floor.

FG: The upper floor.

MS: Upper floor of the prisoner compound?

FG: Yes, the prisoner compound here.

MS: So, was there an upper floor and a lower floor?

FG: Yeah, there was an upper floor and a lower floor.

MS: Can you tell me about that?

FG: Upper floor -- that was the prisoners, you know, you -- it was the level there, and then down on the lower floor there were the offices, you see, the interrogators, and storage rooms and all kinds of stuff, you know.

MS: Now, there were two prisoner compounds [12:00], is that correct?

FG: [unintelligible]

MS: Was there -- how many prisoner compounds were there at 1142 [12:09]?

FG: I cannot -- I don't know how many others were -- I estimate there were maybe close to 50.

MS: Fifty rooms?

FG: So, 50 [unintelligible]?

MS: Yeah.

FG: Yeah, there was close to 50.

BB: Okay, and --

FG: That's what I thought.

BB: Okay.

FG: I just -- it's -- I would say there were close to 50, but --

MS: Fifty rooms?

FG: -- I'd say --

MS: Okay.

FG: -- 50 rooms. I'd say that's [unintelligible] --

MS: Okay.

FG: -- I remember, you know [13:00] [unintelligible], you know.

BB: But there were upper rooms, and there were lower rooms.

FG: Yeah, there were upper -- to [unintelligible], you know, because [unintelligible] upper [unintelligible] in the upper floors were all prisoners, you know.

MS: Upper floors or --

FG: In the downstairs [unintelligible] on the floor below that they interrogated because I know that I was interrogated and then the guard came and said, come on, boy and led me to the downstairs floor.

MS: Okay, so you would -- you would deliver food to the prisoners?

FG: Yeah, and I -- that was what I worked, you see. It was in the beginning, you know, I got -  
- in the -- in the -- in the upper floor there was a POW [14:00] level, and when I was finished with the interrogation, you know, and then I [unintelligible], my interrogator said



“You want to work in the -- in the kitchen now, you, boy?” And so I said, “Sure, I’d love to. The kitchen is my [unintelligible],” then he pushed the button and the guard came and took me up in to the kitchen, you know, at [Fort Hunt \[14:35\]](#).

MS: So, let’s --

FG: And I used to work in the -- as a dishwasher, and then I was a waiter in the dining room and then I was a bartender.

MS: Did the -- did the prisoners eat the same food as the Americans?

FG: The -- no [15:00], the [unintelligible] --

MS: When you took --

FG: They ate my food, you know.

MS: Did the -- did the prisoners have different food than the Americans?

FG: No, I don’t think so.

MS: Did they have --

FG: But I --

MS: -- the same food?

FG: Well, I served in the dining room, you know, it was almost the same like the prisoners.

MS: So the prisoners had the same food as the Americans?

FG: Well, yeah, they would -- they would eat my food, you know.

MS: Okay.

FG: But they came to the salad and vegetables, you know, that was --

MS: Was all of the food for the Americans and the prisoners prepared at the same place

[16:00]?

FG: Yeah.

MS: Okay, so there was no kitchen in the prisoner compound.

FG: No.

MS: And you would -- early on, you would bring food to the prisoners.

FG: Yes.

MS: Would you bring food for the guards as well?

FG: Yeah, the guards.

MS: Okay.

FG: Because they said, "You know, the upper floor was the guards. You know, you're from the kitchens," [unintelligible] the other one, you know.

MS: Okay. All right.

BB: That's right. Half an hour later.

FG: But they also ate in the dining room.

MS: Okay.

FG: [unintelligible] in the dining room, and they used the bar.

MS: Yeah, and -- at --

FG: It was an extra. It was not in the compound [17:00]. It was outside of the compound.

MS: Yeah. After the war, [P.O. Box 1142 \[17:07\]](#) changed with the scientists coming there, so things were different. Is that correct?

FG: Yeah, they gave the scientists, you see, Captain Halle. Captain Halle brought these people here from all over the country to [Fort Hunt \[17:37\]](#) back and forth. So, Captain Halle said, when you leave, take nothing with you except cigarettes and coffee. [18:00] So, like I said, when I left [Fort Hunt \[18:09\]](#), I took cigarettes and coffee. I was the richest guy in the [unintelligible]. And the confiscated us, you know. When they got to

France, the French police took everything away, everything that they had brought from the States. But our group they could not touch. Because we had escorted from MPs and they already went to get them from the harbor from the boat and we went in the cars. Six in the morning . . . --

MS: Okay.

BB: Mr. Gajdosch --

FG: [unintelligible] they stayed until they couldn't [unintelligible].

MS: Yeah. Mr. Gajdosch, that -- just a few more questions regarding 1142, and then we can talk about [Camp King \[19:24\]](#). Did you receive any mail from your family or friends in Germany --

FG: No.

BB: -- when you -- when you were at [1142 \[19:33\]](#)?

FG: No, I didn't [unintelligible], but I could [unintelligible], you know.

MS: Okay.

FG: They sent some mail, but I couldn't receive any mail.

MS: And can you tell me a little bit in terms of what the huts looked like?

FG: Yeah. It was for the -- there was new construction, you know, [unintelligible] the construction, and [unintelligible], you know, constructed, and in the middle of the hut was the iron stove, you know, in the winter time we could use to stay warm.

MS: And there were four beds in the hut.

FG: Yeah, four [unintelligible].

MS: And were the other men who were in the hut with you -- were they workers?

FG: Yeah, they were too, you know, they went [21:00] [unintelligible] the others. The chief

[unintelligible], the laundry, and they were all workers at Fort Hunt.

MS: And so the people that stayed in the hut with you -- do you remember any of their names?

FG: Yeah, they were [unintelligible] and let's see -- [unintelligible], and -- but I also -- I don't think [unintelligible] for [unintelligible], you know. I think de Healey [21:44] [spelled phonetically]. Did you get de Healey?

MS: Yes, I just wanted to see if these were the same people.

FG: Yeah, and I [unintelligible] down there.

MS: Yes, okay, so that was the same group that stayed in the hut with you [22:00].

FG: Yes.

MS: Okay, that's very good.

FG: [unintelligible] we went through [unintelligible]. I mentioned [unintelligible].

MS: Okay, I'll --

FG: [unintelligible], so I -- in the [unintelligible] people mentioned that [unintelligible], you know.

MS: So, I will have David Lassman email you, and then we can get that information later.

That's okay. Do you remember -- do you recall learning about the end of the war and Germany's surrender?

FG: Yeah [23:00].

BB: Were you at --

FG: And [unintelligible].

MS: Were you at 1142 [23:07]?

FG: Yeah.

MS: What do you recall about it?

FG: That [unintelligible]. The war was over, finished.

MS: Was it happy news, or was it sad news?

FG: Oh, you know, really we didn't care. They [unintelligible] about Germany. You know, the Nazis [23:34] [unintelligible].

MS: When you heard that Germany surrendered, did you think that you were going to go home then, after that?

FG: Well, yeah.

BB: But you didn't go home right away.

FG: No, I didn't -- I didn't go home, you know, because [24:00] the communists.

MS: Because --

FG: You didn't [unintelligible] there, you know.

MS: Because of the communists?

FG: Yeah.

MS: So, did you stay because the Americans wanted you to stay, the Americans wouldn't allow you to leave, or because you asked the Americans if you could stay?

FG: I could stay in Germany, you know. I had nothing to lose, I was a refugee, when I was in Germany under the -- [unintelligible] 1944, the refugees, the Germans, you know.

[unintelligible]

BB: So, you --

FG: a refugee.

MS: So, you remained in the United States because you wanted to stay here [25:00]?

FG: Yeah, because I didn't say anything about it. I wanted to go home, you see. I could stay in the States, but I [unintelligible] as soon as [unintelligible], and I could [unintelligible]

all the time, but I [unintelligible] family in Slovakia [25:25] because my grandfather didn't believe it was [unintelligible], you know, the farm.

BB: Do you recall learning about the end of the war in the Pacific when the Japanese surrendered? Do you remember learning about that?

FG: Yeah -- at the end, you see, [unintelligible] in the, you know, to Fort Hunt [26:00]. It was [unintelligible] Japanese prisoners, but we had nothing to do any more with the prisoners in the compound.

MS: So, you remember seeing Japanese prisoners at 1142 [26:22].

FG: Didn't see any, but the rumor, you know [unintelligible] Japanese prisoners came in later on.

MS: So you didn't see them --

FG: [unintelligible] see any.

MS: You didn't see them, but you knew when they were there.

FG: Well, yeah, they [unintelligible].

MS: Were they in the -- in the prisoner compound?

FG: Yeah, they probably -- but I didn't know. We had no contact anymore.

MS: Okay, so when did you learn that you were going to [27:00] leave 1142 [27:02]?

FG: Yeah, I was in -- I was captured at the invasion in France [27:17] and I was brought to see the interrogator and I told him I came from Slovakia. So he said okay. When I came Poznan [27:32], you see, they shipped me to England [27:37], and from England, you know, we landed, I think, in Portland [27:45], and so Portland and then to London [27:54] in between and there [28:00] [unintelligible] too long in between, and there [unintelligible] -- in the plane, you see, [unintelligible] all the rest of the crew, they were

all high-ranking officers, German officers, you know. They looked at me, and [unintelligible] something, you know, but [unintelligible] from the train we went over in trucks to the airport, and at the airport I think there was a plane that would [unintelligible] gentleman, you were lucky, you'd go -- you'd go to the United States. So, I got on that plane, and [unintelligible] with the high ranking officer [inaudible] [29:00], and from there I landed in [Washington, D.C.](#) [29:03] at the airport, and there was a car [unintelligible], you know. There was no windows, nothing in there, you know. It was [unintelligible] about three hours around, you know, and then we came to [Fort Hunt](#) [29:25], and then they got [unintelligible] about a 10-minute drive.

MS: What date did you leave 1142? What month and year?

FG: It was 1946, and it was in June. I think the 21st of June.

MS: The 21st of June, 1946.

FG: Yeah.

MS: You departed [1142](#) [29:57].

FG: Yes.

MS: Is that the same date that you left the United States [30:00]?

FG: Yes, it was.

MS: Okay, all right, and then --

FG: From Fort Hunt, we went to [New York](#) [30:10].

MS: To New York.

FG: [unintelligible] went to [unintelligible] on the trucks -- on the trucks, you know [unintelligible], and from there we went on the boat to -- up to [Le Havre](#) [30:31] and the French.

MS: Okay, well, do you just want to very, very briefly tell us what happened to you at Le Havre going on, then, to **Camp King [30:43]**?

FG: Well, I landed in **Le Havre [30:47]**, and I took the boat, and the [unintelligible]. It was a lot of prisoners, but our group [31:00] [unintelligible], and there were about 30 guys.

MS: And so from **Le Havre [31:26]** did you go directly to **Camp King [31:28]**?

FG: Directly to Camp King. There were three trucks leaving. They wouldn't go [unintelligible]. There were three trucks in all of -- that took our [unintelligible] to Camp King [unintelligible].

MS: So you drove --

FG: Overnight.

MS: You drove all the way.

FG: [unintelligible] in the morning, at about 6:00, we were standing in front of the gate of **Camp King [32:01]**. You go over the [unintelligible].

MS: So, you went to Camp King, but Gehlen [32:09] was not with you.

FG: Yeah, because it was the [unintelligible] group.

MS: They --

(End of Tape 3B)

(Beginning of Tape 4A)

FG: [unintelligible]

VS: So you --

FG: [unintelligible]

VS: So you travelled with **Gehlen's [00:05]** group --

FG: July 14. Yeah, yeah. [unintelligible]



VS: Mr. Gajdosch, I just -- we put a new tape in so I want to go back and just do a -- just a brief introduction. So today is Monday October 25th, 2010. This is an interview with Mr. Franz Gajdosch who is currently in Germany. We're conducting an oral history interview by telephone as part of the Fort Hunt Oral History Project. The team that's interviewing Mr. Gajdosch in Virginia at the headquarters for the George Washington Memorial Parkway include myself, Vince Santucci, the Chief Ranger, Ranger David Lassman, Ranger Kevin Butler, and our friend Chris von Schoning. So Mr. Gajdosch, let's go back. You travelled all the way from **New York [01:12]** by boat to **Le Havre [01:15]**. And then by truck to **Camp King [01:18]** with --

FG: [unintelligible]

VS: -- with **Gehlen's [01:22]** group.

FG: With the Gehlen group, yes.

VS: Okay. Do you remember much about that group?

FG: No, no. I -- not much. [unintelligible]

VS: So you arrived together at **Camp King [02:00]**.

FG: Yeah.

VS: Then what -- what happened then?

FG: You see Camp King [unintelligible] there was [unintelligible] it was the **Gulag [02:15]**. There was a German interrogation internment camp. The Americans had occupied it. And there was a compound, you know. And some barracks, wooden barracks. We cleaned the rooms. And you got a [unintelligible] room with the pilots. You got [unintelligible], you know. They got shot down, you know. You're with the wounded or you were the plain black room [unintelligible]. And from there they went to the basic

camp [03:00] somebody know [unintelligible]. It was the same, you see, life was hard.

VS: And did you remain with **Gehlen's** [03:12] group after you arrived or did you do something different?

FG: We all -- I had no contact, you see. We -- like our ship, you know [unintelligible]. And while -- see remember I was in a compound. And Major [unintelligible] came and he asked me if I would like to work in the **officers' club** [03:55] as a bartender because I was a bartender in **Fort Hunt** [04:00]. So he took me out of the compound and he took me up on the [unintelligible] and over the **officers' club** [04:10]. He was there, you know, Lawrence [spelled phonetically]. And he [unintelligible], you know, would -- you'd know [unintelligible] area that pick them up [unintelligible], you know. [unintelligible], you know. [unintelligible] I started working and then I got the rooms [unintelligible] with **POWs** [04:49] and then I got moved, you know. I went another room with POWs -- I [05:00] was with 3 men. I could go out to a [unintelligible], you know, and so far. And then I went to [unintelligible] I went on the street car. It was one day. A crucial [unintelligible], you see. [unintelligible] As you -- as a young lad, when you grew, you grew in a gemeinschaft (community). So even in the gemeinschaft [unintelligible] they used to leave me in captive. And there was a bunch of Germans there and I met my wife there [unintelligible] and we got married in there.

VS: When you were the bartender --

FG: [unintelligible] 18 [06:00].

VS: When you were the bartender at the **officer's club** [06:03] you're working --

FG: Yeah. I was -- I was in the officer's club.

VS: You were --

FG: I [unintelligible] in there, you know what I'm saying? Then I was treated as a prisoner, you know. And then I got free and I was to give -- got a room in [unintelligible], you know. A room in [unintelligible].

VS: Mr. Gajdosch.

FG: And I met my wife, you know. We got married and we used to live in [unintelligible].

VS: Okay, good. Mr. Gajdosch when you were a bartender at the **officers' club [06:44]**, did you ever see **Gehlen [06:46]** or anyone else of note?

FG: Yeah Gehlen not there.

VS: Gehlen was not there?

FG: [unintelligible] in the -- in the officers' club

VS: Okay. Do you know what the Americans were doing at **Camp King [07:00]**? What they were doing?

FG: Yeah, interrogating.

VS: Interrogating.

FG: Interrogating all the Germans. They were the highly ranking officers, you know [unintelligible] many officers, you know. And preparing the [unintelligible] you were in the -- he was there, you know, in the **Nuremberg [07:28]** trial.

VS: So the interrogations were related to -- they were related to the Nuremberg investigations.

FG: Yeah. The Nuremberg trials.

VS: Okay.

FG: In the Nuremberg -- high-ranking officers, you know, there.

VS: Did you see any high-ranking officers?

FG: Yeah. I knew **Hanna Reitsch [07:49]**, you see. I knew her because Hanna Reitsch -- she

was a test pilot, you know. She [08:00] tested the German jets, modern jets. And then when she was moved there, you know. And the complete, you know, it was [unintelligible] the houses you see and all the officers and VIPs used to live in the house, you know. So I got to go and see she was a nice girl. **Hanna Reitsch [08:33]**, you see, then [unintelligible] she [unintelligible] an apartment. And I used to bring them food, you know from the **CIC [08:47]**.

VS: Okay, very good.

FG: The canteen. [unintelligible] room of the American CIC, you know.

VS: The CIC yes. And can you tell us about the CIC at **Camp King [09:05]**?

FG: Yeah. They interrogated at **CIC [09:11]**. They had interrogation of the high ranking officers and everything; they take even the scientists, you know this.

VS: Did you know any Americans in the CIC?

FG: Sure, I know one there. [unintelligible] Christmas greetings, you know, then they change over the years.

VS: Did you -- did you know anybody [10:00] at **Camp King [10:02]** that you met previously at **P.O. Box 1142 [10:08]**?

FG: Yeah. **Captain Halle [10:11]** -- it was Halle, and **Erikson [10:17]**, and [unintelligible] he is the guy [unintelligible] at **Fort Hunt [10:28]** and Camp King.

VS: **Captain Halle [10:37]**, was that -- was his first name Herman [spelled phonetically]?

FG: Halle. [unintelligible], you see. H-E-N-N-U. As in H-E-N-N-G.

VS: Yes. We have him listed as Herman Halle at **P.O. Box 1142 [11:02]**.

FG: Yeah. You see, this described in detail -- escorted, you see, the branch of **Camp King [11:14]** [unintelligible] to VIP and the Germans, you see, to Fort Hunt.

- VS: So here's the most important question I'm going to ask you. They're all important and this has been good information. But the question I have is, based on your opinion since you were both at **1142 [11:38]** and Camp King, was there any relationship between 1142 and **Camp King [11:46]**?
- FG: Yeah. From Camp King if you were a VIP or important person -- [12:00] you got shipped in that group -- to the United States to **Fort Hunt [12:08]**. [unintelligible] Fort Hunt. It was called Fort Hunt so they went to be in industry and all over, you know.
- VS: So do you mean that prisoners from **Fort Hunt [12:34]** were sent to **Camp King [12:36]** or from King to Hunt?
- FG: Yeah.
- VS: Which one? Would they go from United States to Germany or from Germany to the United States?
- FG: Yeah, back and forth.
- VS: Back and forth.
- FG: Yeah.
- VS: So were there Germans that were [13:00] captured right after the war and interrogated at **Camp King [13:06]** first? And then --
- FG: Yeah.
- VS: Then sent to **P.O. Box 1142 [13:11]**?
- FG: Yeah, it went this way, you see. Camp King [unintelligible] the United States [unintelligible] move, you see, they move. And the Germans, you know, who were -- manpower of the **Nazi [13:33]** party. But you were foreign [unintelligible]. [unintelligible] not allowed to immigrate to the United States, you know. But in those

days all these high ranking officers -- oh and English [unintelligible] so, you know. With our own men [unintelligible] the **Nazi [14:00]** party. So -- but in -- like **Wernher von Braun [14:07]**, for instance, you see he was in [unintelligible]. He was in the Waffen SS, you know. He was in a major in the Waffen SS, you know. But he not allowed to immigrate to the United States, but **Camp King [14:29]**, you know, the **CIC [14:31]** made it possible, you know. So they [unintelligible] so [unintelligible] remember, you know. But we were all in the end there was **Linda Hunt [14:55]**. Maybe you will know, she discovered all of these things [15:00], she made a big deal in the US about all these guys.

VS: So you know about **Linda Hunt's [15:11]** book "**The Paperclip Conspiracy**" [15:14]?

FG: Yeah. [unintelligible]

VS: What do you think of her book?

FG: Oh it's correct.

VS: Correct. Okay. So you mentioned that people like **von Braun [15:27]** or others, members of the **Nazi [15:30]** party and **Waffen SS [15:33]** who based on American law and the President of the United States orders that they were not permitted to come to the United States. But you stated that they could do so by coming to **Camp King [15:48]** first. What happened at Camp King?

FG: The **CIC [15:52]** at Camp King, they made it possible for them, you see, to move to the United States [16:00]. And immigrate to the United States, in [unintelligible], you know. You see even Barby, you know Barby?

VS: Yes, **Klaus Barby [16:10]**.

FG: Barby, yeah. He went to the United -- to the -- went to America, he was not in the United States but it was in Argentina. You see, they made it possible that -- to America, you see,

to Argentina or Mexico [unintelligible] you see.

VS: So how do you think that the American military at **Camp King [16:46]** made it possible?

What did they do to make it possible?

FG: It was **CIC [16:53]**.

VS: What did they do to make it possible?

FG: [unintelligible] camp [17:00].

VS: Did they seek an exemption from American law? Or did they -- did they bring them in without permission of the United States government?

FG: No, you see, they didn't hold the [unintelligible] or if they [unintelligible] the commission. A member of -- like the [unintelligible], you see to Italy. And from Italy, you know, so they have grants [unintelligible] to America, you see. To Argentina or [unintelligible] or you know, you see.

VS: What ever happened with **Reinhard Gehlen [17:45]** after the war?

FG: Yeah. He was in the Bundeswehr in the [unintelligible], you know. You know.

VS: Could you repeat that please?

FG: In the [unintelligible], you know, [unintelligible] [18:00] in Germany, you know. They formed partnerships, you see. Then they went and [unintelligible]. And then he started working for the government, you see. And the --

BB: American.

FG: [inaudible] a partnership, you know. How are you to see, you know [unintelligible]. You do the same? [unintelligible] bounce around, you know, on the [unintelligible], you know. [unintelligible] over the U.K., you see. It leads to, you know, the **Cold War [19:00]**, you know. So he collected in his group, you see, and [unintelligible] Russian

and Poland and East Germany, you know. And he started, you know, collecting from them all the things.

VS: So here's another -- here's another difficult question for you. And you may not have the answer but I'll ask you. Why did **Reinhard Gehlen [19:36]** not go to **Nuremberg [19:38]** for a trial?

FG: Yeah. Let me see, because he was probably not involved, you see. He was [20:00] -- he was not -- he was military, you know.

VS: So through --

FG: He was a [unintelligible], you know. He was [unintelligible], you know, and then they -- so I cannot -- I don't know exactly, he -- but I tell you with his connections he was -- well that was probably the answer, you know.

VS: It's a question that we probably can't answer but I just thought I would get your opinion. So you met your wife, you got married, and you lived happily ever after.

FG: Yeah.

VS: And so after the war, what did --

FG: [unintelligible] can I describe, you know, [unintelligible] like, you know.

VS: And after the war, what was [21:00] your --

FG: I [unintelligible] and my [unintelligible].

VS: Okay. And after the war, what job did you have?

FG: Yeah I was a bartender.

VS: All right. So the Americans helped you --

FG: You see I wanted to continue at the **officer's club [21:21]**. There you see how [unintelligible] you see, to [unintelligible] to close. And so I worked for the Americans,



you see, in the officer's club.

VS: Well my final question was, how does your time at **P.O. Box 1142 [21:38]** influence the rest of your life? And it sounds like the Americans helped you to find your career.

FG: Yeah I worked [unintelligible], you see, at the **officer's club [21:55]**, you know. Had the outpost, you know, [22:00] the [unintelligible] club. From what do we know eastern refugees, you know. [unintelligible] only Russians, Pollacks, you know, East Germans. Usually they came -- he broke the [unintelligible], you know. They came to **Camp King [22:34]** for interrogations, in Berlin, you know, all over. In collecting points, you know. Then you can live with the French, the Germans and important persons, scientists, something like this were brought to **Camp King [23:00]**. And from there, from Camp King they got -- when they finished with their interrogations, you see. So we got [unintelligible]. But all were important persons, you know.

VS: Very good. Well Mr. Gajdosch we really, really appreciate your time. And what we'll do is when we get the tape we'll send you a copy of this on a CD.

FG: Okay.

VS: And I hope that -- I hope that you're recovered from your sickness and we someday might be able to meet you in Germany.

FG: Okay it's been very nice [24:00]. I do appreciate it. Look I went about 14 -- three weeks ago I was in [unintelligible], you see. The [unintelligible] they can keep -- they keep me in for one week. Or [unintelligible] in Europe so they keep me in [unintelligible].

BB: Unknown?

VS: Do you know their name?

FG: Yeah, it seemed like -- I guess I need to knock my head. [unintelligible] I -- don't know

[unintelligible] [25:00]. Ninety years already almost, you know, so it's -- my mind is -- my mind -- the reason remember because you know -- it's coming not in my mind.

VS: Well, you can send it to us later if you remember it. David is going to be email you.

FG: Yeah, yeah.

VS: So don't worry about it right now.

FG: Okay.

VS: But I -- we've held you for --

FG: **Ogilvy [25:38]** [spelled phonetically].

BB: Ogilvy.

VS: Ogilvy.

FG: You know, Ogilvy, Sergeant Ogilvy and [unintelligible] Ogilvy, you know. Not officers, you know, civilians. American civilians in [unintelligible] in the **CIC [26:00]**. Ogilvy's.

VS: Excellent.

FG: **Sergeant Ogilvy [26:06]** and [unintelligible] Ogilvy are out there.

VS: Very good. Well thanks again Mr. Gajdosch. And we'll follow up with you if we have any more questions. And --

FG: [unintelligible] I'm -- even [unintelligible] and I'll look around at home, you know.

VS: Very good. Well thanks again and hope you're feeling better.

FG: Oh yeah. I -- well what can I say [unintelligible].

VS: Well --

FG: I still cannot [unintelligible] work, you know.

VS: Great. Well, thanks again.

FG: Okay. I appreciate it, to talk to you. I'm happy, you know.

VS: Very good.

FG: Thank you.

VS: Thank you again for everything [27:00]. Have a nice day.

FG: I am available any time you need. When I am at home and every day in the afternoon.

VS: Well great. That's very kind of you. Thanks again.

FG: Okay. Thank you.

VS: Bye, bye.

FG: And give my regards to everyone there.

BB: I'll do that.

CS: [speaks German] Goodbye, we will send a photo of us. We will send a picture through  
the computer

[end of transcript]

Index

2nd SS Panzer division, [Tape 2A] 20:34  
4th battalion [Tape 1A] 05:55  
4th infantry regiment, [Tape 1A] 04:07, 06:00

Alexandria, [Tape 3A] 07:02  
Arlington Cemetery, [Tape 3A] 10:41  
[Tape 3B] 06:06  
Arnie, [Tape 2B] 13:07

Barby, Klaus, [Tape 4A] 16:10  
Bildungschule, [Tape 1A] 04:38  
Bordeaux, [Tape 2A] 31:13  
[Tape 2B] 01:56  
Brunswig, [Tape 1A] 14:40

Camp King, [Tape 2B] 03:53, 05:49, 13:54, 14:51, 15:54, 16:40, 27:16  
[Tape 3A] 03:56, 22:49  
[Tape 3B] 19:24, 30:43, 31:28, 32:01  
[Tape 4A] 01:18, 02:00, 07:00, 09:05, 10:02, 11:14, 11:46, 12:36, 13:06, 14:29, 15:48,  
16:46, 22:34, 23:00  
Cold War, [Tape 4A] 19:00  
Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC), [Tape 4A] 08:47, 09:11, 14:31, 15:52, 16:53, 26:00

Das Reich, [Tape 1A] 02:04, 06:46  
[Tape 2A] 20:31, 21:26, 24:09  
[Tape 2B] 12:37  
D-Day, [Tape 1A] 29:21  
De Healey, [Tape 3B] 21:44  
Deshler, Wernher, [Tape 3B] 09:33

England, [Tape 1A] 21:02, 21:04  
[Tape 1B] 06:52, 08:27, 08:57, 10:50, 12:54, 14:17, 17:36  
[Tape 2A] 24:21  
[Tape 3B] 27:37  
Erikson, Captain, [Tape 2B] 13:16  
[Tape 4A] 10:17

Feedler, [Tape 2B] 22:54, 24:17  
France, [Tape 1B] 08:31  
[Tape 2A] 29:56, 30:58  
[Tape 3B] 27:17

Gehlen, Reinhard, [Tape 2B] 18:26, 31:16  
[Tape 3B] 03:30, 04:20, 32:09

[Tape 4A] 00:05, 01:22, 03:12, 06:46, 17:45, 19:36  
Gulag, [Tape 4A] 02:15

Halle, Captain [Tape 2B] 25:21, 27:24, 13:07  
[Tape 4A] 10:11, 10:37  
Hausser, General, [Tape 2B] 12:33  
Henke, Wernher, [Tape 3B] 10:27  
Hunt, Linda, [Tape 4A] 14:55, 15:11

Iceland, [Tape 1B] 12:59, 13:00, 21:57, 22:00, 23:02, 23:16

Kempe, Captain, [Tape 3A] 29:50  
Kezmarok [Tape 1A] 04:55  
Kharkov [Tape 1A] 06:42  
[Tape 2A] 21:28

Kreaemer, [Tape 2A] 11:03  
Krempel, [Tape 2A] 11:33  
[Tape 2B] 15:28, 16:09, 16:38, 17:07  
Kursk, [Tape 2A] 24:03

Le Havre, [Tape 3B] 30:31, 30:47, 31:26  
[Tape 4A] 01:15  
Le Vesinet, [Tape 1A] 18:56  
London, [Tape 1B] 11:53, 16:03, 16:28, 20:06  
[Tape 3B] 27:54

Merdenes, Martin, [Tape 2B] 22:37, 23:18  
Military police (MP), [Tape 3A] 11:07, 12:07  
Munich, [Tape 3A] 28:14

Nazis, [Tape 3B] 00:16, 23:34  
[Tape 4A] 13:33, 14:00, 15:30  
Newfoundland, [Tape 1B] 13:03, 23:18  
New York, [Tape 3B] 30:10  
[Tape 4A] 01:12  
Normandy, [Tape 1A] 07:34, 29:19  
[Tape 1B] 02:39  
Nuremberg, [Tape 2B] 15:23, 15:48, 16:32  
[Tape 4A] 07:28, 19:38

Oberhausen, [Tape 2B] 27:30  
Officer's club, [Tape 2B] 30:37, 30:57, 31:00  
[Tape 3A] 06:30, 07:31  
[Tape 4A] 03:55, 04:10, 06:03, 06:44, 21:21, 21:55  
Officer's quarters, [Tape 3A] 05:35

Ogilvy, Sergeant, [Tape 4A] 25:38, 26:06

Oradour-sur-Glane [Tape 1A] 10:46, 11:16, 12:12

Panzer-4, [Tape 1A] 02:06, 06:52, 07:45, 09:12, 22:42

[Tape 2A] 23:40, 23:43, 24:45, 31:30

Papaki, [Tape 2B] 20:58, 21:12, 21:50, 23:17, 24:04

“The Paperclip Conspiracy,” [Tape 4A] 15:14

P.O. Box 1142 / Fort Hunt, [Tape 1B] 14:12, 26:20

[Tape 2A] 01:12, 03:56

[Tape 2B] 05:55, 06:12, 06:35, 07:00, 08:21, 12:11, 12:42, 13:31, 13:50, 14:50, 15:45, 16:42, 17:03, 19:52, 20:17, 24:48, 25:42, 26:41, 27:13, 27:33, 27:55, 28:42

[Tape 3A] 01:50, 03:55, 05:21, 11:40, 16:52, 19:00, 19:16, 19:50, 21:54, 22:53, 25:55, 25:19, 26:28, 27:05, 30:26

[Tape 3B] 01:17, 03:31, 05:20, 07:21, 12:09, 14:35, 17:07, 17:37, 18:09, 19:33, 23:07, 26:00, 26:22, 27:02, 29:25, 29:57

[Tape 4A] 04:00, 10:08, 10:28, 11:02, 11:38, 12:08, 12:34, 13:11, 21:38

Poland, [Tape 1A] 09:43, 10:00, 12:59

[Tape 2A] 21:02

Portland, [Tape 1A] 21:06

[Tape 1B] 06:58, 08:28, 08:58, 11:03

[Tape 3B] 27:45

Potomac River, [Tape 2A] 18:08

[Tape 3A] 07:57, 08:49, 10:13, 11:57, 12:15

Poznan, [Tape 2A] 21:06

[Tape 3B] 27:32

Prisoner of war (POW), [Tape 2A] 10:16, 15:56

[Tape 3A] 29:23

[Tape 3B] 14:00

[Tape 4A] 04:49

Resistance, [Tape 1A] 10:42

Reitsch, Hanna, [Tape 4A] 07:49, 08:33

Russia, [Tape 1A] 09:58

[Tape 2A] 29:53, 30:22

[Tape 3A] 18:48

Schuster, [Tape 2A] 28:27

Schutzstaffel (SS), [Tape 1A] 05:37

Slovakia, [Tape 1A] 01:27, 02:36, 03:05, 21:26

[Tape 1B] 09:05, 09:53

[Tape 2A] 30:46

[Tape 2B] 11:45, 12:13

[Tape 3A] 27:20, 28:02

[Tape 3B] 25:25

Smith, [Tape 2A] 09:17, 09:47

[Tape 2B] 09:32

St. Lo, [Tape 1A] 14:51, 15:06, 29:53

[Tape 1B] 02:54

St. Martel, [Tape 1A] 31:24

St. Martens, [Tape 1A] 16:08

Stoolpigeon, [Tape 3B] 06:28, 06:53, 07:19, 08:06

Toulouse, [Tape 1A] 07:21, 10:13, 10:38, 12:18

[Tape 1B] 02:26, 03:00

[Tape 2A] 31:17

U-boat, [Tape 2A] 13:37, 14:09, 14:30, 14:49

[Tape 3B] 09:26, 10:07, 10:40

Unterscharfuhrer, [Tape 1A] 06:34

von Braun, Wernher, [Tape 2B] 05:58, 25:40, 26:38, 27:28, 29:36, 30:23, 31:33

[Tape 3A] 22:01

[Tape 3B] 00:53, 01:13, 02:12, 02:42

[Tape 4A] 14:07, 15:27

Waffen-SS, [Tape 1A] 01:46, 03:48, 27:00, 27:20

[Tape 3A] 18:19

[Tape 4A] 15:33

Washington, [Tape 1B] 13:04, 20:57, 21:00, 23:24, 24:26

[Tape 2A] 01:06, 03:13, 03:44

[Tape 3A] 03:06, 11:05, 12:45, 14:02, 14:36

[Tape 3B] 06:04, 29:03

Wehrmacht, [Tape 1A] 27:30