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Oral History Interview

NSA OH-18-84

with

MS. SALLY SPEER

28 August 1984

~~Ms. Speer's Apartment in~~ Bridgeport, Connecticut

By R. D. Farley

FARLEY:

Today is 28 August 1984; our interviewee, ¹⁵⁵ ~~Ms.~~ Sally Speer. Ms. Speer joined the Women's Auxiliary Corps, the ~~WAAC~~ ^{WAC}, in 1943, WWII, and following basic training was assigned to the Signal Intelligence Service, Central Bureau, in Brisbane, Australia. Although she had experience as a personal secretary to a President of a Corporation ⁱⁿ ~~from~~ New York City, she became a key punch operator in the machine section in Central Bureau. While here, she poked up thousands of cards with Japanese traffic on them for ~~the~~ use ^{by} ~~of~~ the analysts. In mid-1945 the ~~WAAC~~ ^{WAC} unit moved with the Advanced ^{Headquarters} of Central Bureau to San Miguel in the Philippines. ^{Miss} ~~Ms.~~ Speer served with the machine unit until the war ended. The interview is taking place in ^{Miss} ~~Ms.~~ Speer's apartment in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Interviewer: Bob Farley.

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Miss

~~Ms.~~ Speer desires that the classification of this single tape be CONFIDENTIAL. This is NSA Oral History 18-84.

~~SPEER: (unclear)~~

FARLEY: Sally, I'll try not to take too much of your time. First, thanks much for giving me a little time.

SPEER: I wish it could be more, ~~but~~ ^{better} under ^{the} circumstances. *e*

FARLEY: I'm sure what you have to talk about will be interesting. What I'd like to do, Sally, is sort of re-create your career - the WAACs, what you did in your basic training, your training in crypt ^{or} machines ^{or} whatever else. But if there are any secrets that you have, you can talk at any level you want.

SPEER: When we left the army ~~when~~ the war was over, they made us sign papers that we wouldn't talk about what we did for seven years. I said I wouldn't be caught dead talking about it in seventy-seven years.

FARLEY: Now if you do have secrets, I have a dispensation ^{form} ^{for} them. ^{That's all settled.} Sally, let's begin, ^{Again,} ^{again,} thanks a lot for giving me some time. I appreciate it, and I know your problems. But keep all fingers crossed.

SPEER: Yes, right.

FARLEY: ^{If you would} just pick it up ^{-just} maybe your teen-age days just out of

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high school, whatever happened before you went in the military and then we can take it chronologically.

And have you talk about what happened, why you went into the WAACs, where you were inducted, where you took your basic training and then proceed from there.

SPEER: First of all, our parents died when we were very, very young. So we moved around an awful lot. My sister said one day that she got up to 39 changes and gave up. So we were moved from one relative to another. They thought maybe they were going to make some money on us and then decided ~~we~~ there was no money.

FARLEY: This was in the late '30s, Sally - early '40s?

SPEER: Earlier than that. I'm 74 years old now.

FARLEY: You're kidding. I can't believe it. Of course, I believe you, but you don't look it.

SPEER: I graduated from high school here in Bridgeportⁱⁿ 1927, and then I went down to New York. As I say, we had relatives and we ~~went~~ ^{lived} back and forth with different relatives. I entered Hunter College there, but I wasn't able to finish because I had no money. I went for about 2-1/2 years, I think, and then went at night for awhile. I went into the WAAC in 1943, October 1943.

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FARLEY: So ^{the war had been} ~~(unclear)~~ on over a year, then.

SPEER: Well, you see, before that it was the Women's Auxiliary. And I wasn't interested in joining the Auxiliary. I wanted the real stuff. Another reason that I had to wait was that I was too thin. I was sure that they weren't going to pass me. And they didn't at first - the big rejected little thing. But they finally waived it, and I went in. And I had no trouble the whole time I was in the Army. I was first stationed in Pine Camp which is now Camp Drum in northern New York. We got there about the middle of December, and my commanding officer asked me if I wanted to go home for Christmas. I came home and of course I talked a blue streak while I was here and lost my voice. As soon as I got back to camp, they put me in the hospital. I was just lying there feeling perfectly all right, but each afternoon my temperature would go up ^{because} ~~^~~ The place was so hot. ^{Finally} ~~Anyhow~~ I begged them to let me up. And that was the only illness I had for the two years ^{that} ~~^~~ I was in. So then from Pine Camp...

FARLEY: Did you take your basic training at Pine Camp?

SPEER: No, ⁱⁿ Oglethorpe.

FARLEY: And then I was on CQ ^{I guess} ~~^~~ one night with our commanding

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officer and she said to me, "if you had your choice between ~~going to~~ officer's school and going overseas which would you take?" I said, "overseas of course." So within about two weeks I had my overseas orders.

FARLEY: This was ~~probably about~~ ^{what} November '43? December of '43?

SPEER: No, that was the summer of '44 because I got to Pine Camp in ~~of~~ December of '43. And then about July I think I got my orders to go overseas. I went back to Oglethorpe of course for extended field service.

FARLEY: Did you take some type of basic training at Oglethorpe - I mean marching and ~~that sort of~~ ^{close order} drill..

SPEER: Oh yes, the movies and the whole bit.

FARLEY: Did you have any training in communications there at all?

SPEER: Nothing.

FARLEY: Nothing at all.

SPEER: No training of any kind except military.

FARLEY: So there was no specialized courses in case they said okay you're going to be a secretary and you're going to be a teletype operator, and you're going to be a cryptanalyst.

SPEER: Not 'til I got to Pine Camp. And the commanding officer up there was a very, very nice woman. She asked me

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what I was interested in and I said I thought I might be interested in teletype - you know - morse code thing. But I didn't get that. I was in Headquarters, typing up the daily bulletin and orders. And as I say, from there I went to Oglethorpe. When we got to Oglethorpe for overseas training, - oh yes, we got up to Chattanooga one night ^{and} it was terribly damp and cold - waiting for a train and that took us up to Camp Stoneman ~~(of)~~ in California. Of course we weren't told anything on the way ^{out} ~~up~~. I think we stopped somewhere in New Mexico and some Red Cross woman or something - I don't think it was the Red Cross - is that thing on ^{Because} I don't want to talk about the Red Cross, ~~e~~

FARLEY: I know what you mean. You can say it if you like because I feel the same way.

SPEER: They came and gave us something..

FARLEY: Did they charge you 15 cents for a donut?

SPEER: Yes, something like that. They said we know you can't tell us where you're going. We said no. We were in Stoneman for - let's see - that was in August - yes August - and my sister's son was born on August 16 and I got a telegram in Stoneman saying that he was born and I went to the commanding officer to see if I could

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make a phone call home and they said no, we're confined to quarters because we're ready to ship out. So we shipped out maybe 10 days after that. I think we got to Brisbane around the first, second or third of September of '44, and we went to ^{Yeronga}~~Yoranga~~(?) Park.

FARLEY: Was there quite a group of you?

SPEER: There were a great many WAACs on the ship going out, and the night before we were to land in New Guinea they gave out spray cans to every other girl and I was one who got the spray can. But the next morning one of the girls came to me and said, "Sally, Lt. Sullivan wants to see you." So I reported to her, and she said ^{Oh} "oh yes, you're not getting off here." Well, I was thrilled because when I found out I was going to New Guinea I was so disgusted - after travelling 12,000 miles and I wind up in New Guinea. So I think something like 80 or 85 of us stayed on the ship and went on to Brisbane. The others got off in ^{Oro Oro}~~Ororo~~ Bay.

FARLEY: Do you remember some of the girls who went to New Guinea? Know their names?

SPEER: No, no. ^{Except}~~Just~~ in your letter you mentioned that you talked to Sue Cross and she was in ^{Hollandia}~~(unclear)~~. We didn't meet those girls again until we got ^{we} to the

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Philippines afterwards. It was such a brief time. I didn't really become acquainted with any of them. So where are we?

FARLEY: You're just on the way to Brisbane.

SPEER: When we got to Brisbane, I remember they piled us into trucks and I was at the very edge of the truck, and one of the GIs came up and presented me with a red rose. I thought that was very nice. So then, the first thing they did was put us on the midnight shift to work.

FARLEY: All right. But had you had some training?

SPEER: Nothing

FARLEY: No training yet.

SPEER: What do you mean yet? I never did have training period. I was a secretary in New York before I came here. So they put us on the midnight shift and we had a heck of a time finding Ascot in the dark. I remember that.

FARLEY: Where were you folks billeted?

SPEER: At ~~Yoranga~~ ^{Yeronga} ^{Yeronga} Park.

FARLEY: That's right. I think you had a double barbed wire fence in ~~Yoranga~~ ^{Yeronga}.

SPEER: Yes, because you people were on the other side. Were you there, too?

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FARLEY: Yes, Yes.

SPEER: And of course a lot of the boys were at Ascot.

FARLEY: Yes, they had that race course in Ascot across the road from where we ^{worked.} were.

SPEER: You ^{worked} were right in Ascot?

FARLEY: Yes, yes.

SPEER: How is it I didn't know you?

FARLEY: I remember you.

SPEER: Do you?

FARLEY: Yes. I was in Hut 7 with ^{Maury} ~~Morie~~ Coombs ~~(?)~~ and Reynolds Whitney, and there were three or four Australians..

SPEER: I know those people.

FARLEY: I think our pictures - and some of the Australians there..There was a Flight Lieutenant John Walsh and ^{Knobby} ~~Nobby~~ Clark, the Australian, flight lieutenant, I guess ^{what do they call them?}

SPEER: What was your rank? Were you an officer?

FARLEY: Lieutenant, yes.

SPEER: ^{Terrace.} ~~(unclear)~~ This is where I was looking. ^{Gregory} ~~(unclear)~~ This was your? I know him..

FARLEY: Yes, that was the group I was in. ^(here, they are looking at pictures) Yes, that was Reynolds with me. And this is ^{Vaness} ~~(unclear)~~ Ness, and this is Wallie Oppenheimer and Bill somebody up in ...Marks was his name... I don't remember him ... This fellow's brother was going to be in Florida at the reunion. ^{He's a} ~~(unclear)~~ historian.

Speer: "Lieutenant"
Farley: "Lieutenant"
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SPEER: What's the date? Because I haven't gotten any ^{notice.}

FARLEY: 5-6 October. I'll jar Bruce Darling.

SPEER: Okay.

FARLEY: But that was the ^{outfit} ~~odd 50~~ right here.

SPEER: Yes. Now here's Grace ^{McCrae} ~~McCraig~~ (?) the one who lives down in Florida.

FARLEY: Yes.

SPEER: A lot of people thought she and Rosemary looked alike. Do you think so? ^{Farley: NO} Do you know either of them?

FARLEY: ~~No.~~ Yes. That's Mrs. Darling, ^{right.} Were you friendly with her?

SPEER: This is the group that I ^{knew} ~~don't~~, even ^{though} ~~know~~ I wasn't with them ~~but~~ they did the punching of tape -that's the type of work that they did.

FARLEY: Now these people were ^{Spoor, Warren Spoor.} primarily traffic sorters. I guess Ed ^L Raffin and ~~(unclear)~~.
^{And him, Braxton Small}
^{Laffin is dead.}

SPEER: ~~Unclear...~~ This is our group - Clarence ^{Mann} ~~(unclear)~~ he's dead.

FARLEY: He's from ^{Bell buckle,} ~~(unclear)~~, Tennessee.

SPEER: Who? Clarence?

FARLEY: ^{No, the} The bald-headed fellow. (Fordham).

SPEER: ^{Ray Fordham} ~~(unclear)~~ ^{Morland} Don ~~Marlin~~. He was supposed to be at the reunion at Fort Meade, but he didn't show up.

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reunion at Fort Meade, but he didn't show up.

FARLEY: He will be at the one in Florida.

SPEER: Oh, will he?

FARLEY: He's a dentist down in ~~(unclear)~~ South Carolina. (Raleigh, NC

SPEER: ^{A dentist?} He studied Forestry.

to a PhD - not dentist)
CB

FARLEY: I know. He's a dentist down there.

SPEER: That's why he's "doctor". I just thought it was a
Doctor of Philosophy when they said Dr. ^{Moreland} ~~Marlin~~. A
dentist, ^h how about that?

FARLEY: And do you remember George Bailey? Isn't he on the
extreme ^{left?} ~~there?~~ Is that George Bailey?

SPEER: No, no.

FARLEY: Oh, I'm sorry. It looked ^s like ^{him} it. Who is this one?

SPEER: Let's see, Fred ~~(unclear)~~, ^{Snyder, Clarence Kufaw (?)} Clara ~~(unclear)~~, I remember
him - Don, Roy, Clarence, ^{Paul} ~~Pearl~~ Evans, Rick Roberts -
he died too - ^{Rita} ~~(unclear)~~ told me he died.

FARLEY: Oh, did he? I didn't know that. Did you ever come
across a Talcott ^t Stanley? He's a lieutenant - I don't
know the name, but he lives up in Hartford. I was
going to interview him, but he didn't answer the phone,
so I couldn't.

SPEER: ~~Let me run through the (unclear)~~ That's me. That is Rita Taylor, the
one that I told you about. All of this is my group.

FARLEY: Oh, yes. This was the keypunch group?

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SPEER: Not all of them, ^{Rita} ~~but Reedent (?)~~ and this girl and ^{Page} ~~peg~~ Hamilton and Jackie Rogers - they worked the keypunch. ^{They} went into another room which they called the machine room - they're like IBM things, ^{but} ~~Remington Rand~~ I ^{believe} ~~think~~ that they had during the war - so those two. But I never went into that room.

FARLEY: What did you keypunch, Sally? Did they give you a long strip?

SPEER: It was long strips of paper with numbers on them, and then the card went into the side of the machine and we punched it. That's all I know because ^{it was all secret and I was supposed to know what I was doing. (laughter)} ~~unclear~~

FARLEY: You don't know whether it was Japanese traffic, ⁰ obviously it was ~~it~~

SPEER: I was supposed to be breaking the Japanese code...

FARLEY: Yes, but you don't know whether it was Japanese water ^{transport} code or Air or Army.

SPEER: No, because we weren't allowed to talk about it at that point.

FARLEY: Yes, yes. When you went there, did they give you an orientation, ^{or} ~~the~~ the people at Central Bureau? ^{Or} ~~the~~ ^{did the} ~~people~~ ^{people} at Ascot Park say, ^{"look} look you're part of a sensitive organization and here's what we're doing and here's what you're going to do? "

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SPEER: Nope.

FARLEY: Is that right? They just said, ^ghere's a chair and here's a machine and said do this, ^fone, two, three.

SPEER: That's it, that's it...that's all they did.

FARLEY: That is something, isn't it? How was the morale then? Was it kind of low because...

SPEER: No, I think we had good morale. Because a lot of the girls and the fellows of course went down to ^{Coolangatta} ~~(unclear)~~ on their day off. I never did because - I love swimming, ^fbut I don't like ocean bathing. So it just happened that I never did. I had other interests I guess. I loved being in Brisbane. I love Brisbane. And I went to ^{the} movies a lot of course. I went to the theater because they had a couple of musical comedies there when I was there, and Rosemary and Phil and "Fireball" and I use to ^{hang around} band together - and also, ^{what was his name?} ~~Nuts~~ ^{Not} It was not ~~Not~~ Schwartz. He was a teacher at Queens College, and after the war they accused him of being a Communist. Do you remember him?

FARLEY: Vaguely. I can't place the name, though.

SPEER: Very, very nice fellow. Very, very nice. And then, ^{see,} Rosemary and Phil had their own apartment after they got married, and we use ^d to spend our day off together.

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FARLEY: That was nice. In the operational end of it, did you ever get any briefings at all about what was going on, ^{or} no intelligence briefings?

SPEER: *Nothing.* I told you I was very low on the totem pole.

FARLEY: But this is a little disappointing. I guess there were a lot of people like that.

SPEER: I was disappointed because I felt that with my ability to do secretarial work, it seemed to ^{me} be an awful waste of time to put me on to this job, but this is the Army, Mrs. Jones.

FARLEY: You could have been typing reports. You could have been typing other things ^{than poking holes} ~~(unclear) that falls~~ in ^{cards.} tapes.

SPEER: One of the girls ^{who} ~~that~~ was in my hut - not in our group, but in the hut at ^{Yeronga} ~~Yoranga (?)~~, worked downtown in what they ^{used to} ~~called~~ the trash and garbage building, and she did secretarial work. The only thing I didn't care for - and after awhile it was eliminated ^{and} I don't know if I mentioned it in the letter or not - as I said, they put us on the midnight shift when we first got there, and a number of the people who were on the midnight shift preferred it. They used to take their lunch hour and their two coffee breaks combined and used to sleep in the middle of the night on the floor ^o in these dirty GI

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blankets. I didn't like that at all. ^{as long as a lot of them liked} So ~~(unclear) on~~

^{being on} the midnight shift, it was no problem. So then I worked two shifts - day shift and the four to midnight.

FARLEY: It still was a rough life, wasn't it?

SPEER: No, I liked it. I wouldn't have given it up for anything. No, I wasn't unhappy ~~there.~~ ^{in the Army}

FARLEY: Weren't you?

SPEER: Of course, the fact that I loved to travel, ^{so} the fact that I got to travel was wonderful for me.

FARLEY: Did you get down to ~~Sydney~~ at all?

SPEER: No, I did not. That was a disappointment because ~~I~~ remember, they cancelled all leave^s. And then they lifted the ban, but the stipulation was you could not go alone. You had to go with somebody else. By that time, all the girls had taken their furloughs in Brisbane. They didn't care. They just took the time off. But I saved mine hoping that this would happen. What I didn't know was that I could have gone with ~~the~~ a dressmaker's daughter, a civilian.

FARLEY: Oh, that's a shame.

SPEER: Nobody told me that. So I didn't get to ~~Sydney~~.

FARLEY: ^{That would have been great.}
~~Oh~~ to go with a native Australian would have been wonderful.

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SPEER: Yes, yes it would have been great. In fact, ^{who was it arranged it?} we met some pilots in the Australian Airforce - at that place where we used to eat - you know the one that used to say ^{"Strike"} ~~stripes (?)~~ for the Americans?

FARLEY: All the way down there?

SPEER: They arranged for us to stay at a hotel in S^ydney, and they were going to fly us down, but we couldn't make it. That was a big disappointment that I didn't get to S^ydney. Of course, now Rita is living in Brisbane and she keeps asking me when am I coming back.

FARLEY: Sure - you ought to go over again and see the old place.

SPEER: I'd love to go back, but of course it costs ^{such} an awful lot of money.

FARLEY: Yes, it's outrageous. We tried to arrange a reunion tour out there and the minimum for one person is about \$3,500. And that's outrageous.

SPEER: Yes. I think ^{it would be \$5,000 because} if I went, hopefully I'd stay ^{for} a couple of months because it wouldn't be worth while otherwise. And I'd have a place to stay ^{at} at Rita's apartment because she has three bedrooms in her condominium.

FARLEY: That would be great. Did you ever attend any of Colonel Sinkov's parties?

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SPEER: Yes, yes. I have pictures of that, but I don't think I have them here, but I do have them.

FARLEY: Again, I was looking at the ~~Clamor~~ ^{Clamor} ~~Clamor~~ ^K. Do you remember the news letter they used to put out - every two weeks, was it - or once a month - whatever, ^{and} and there are photographs of Sinkov's party. All the girls are enjoying themselves.

SPEER: You saved them all?

FARLEY: Yes, yes.

SPEER: Great.

FARLEY: You see, I'm in the history department at NSA.

SPEER: Oh. At San Jose?

FARLEY: At NSA, ^{National Security} San Jose - that's your old home town. I see your card down there. I see your card on the mail box - San Jose, California.

SPEER: Does it? ^{Is that what it has? The address at San Jose?} (unclear) I never realized that. Isn't that funny? (laughter)

FARLEY: Yes.

SPEER: I did some - you don't want this on here because it doesn't have anything to do with the Army - but I did some volunteer work in San Jose with a Jesuit priest who is a lawyer. And I was out there for eight months.

FARLEY: Yes, that was in the - and I wondered because we spent

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a couple of weeks at San Jose. Remember Sid ^{Haken}~~Aiken(?)~~?

SPEER: Uh huh, I remember the name.

FARLEY: He lives in San Jose.

SPEER: Oh, does he?

FARLEY: He and I were in the same hut working on the Japanese air-ground problem. The liaison traffic. So, he was in San Jose. Who was the chief of the keypunch operation? Was there somebody in charge.

SPEER: Yes, Zach ~~(?)~~

FARLEY: ~~Halpen(?)~~ Halpin.

SPEER: Yes, ~~Halpen~~ Halpin. Yes, he was our boss.

FARLEY: And who was No. 2? There was a little short fellow. I can't even think of his name - who was No. 2. Remember him?

SPEER: Capt...

FARLEY: Yeh, I remember Zach ~~Halpen~~ Halpin.

SPEER: You do remember.

FARLEY: Yes, he's still in Maryland. He lives in Silver Springs, I believe.

SPEER: This fellow... what was his name - Bob - well, you wouldn't know - he was in charge of the non-com club. And he comes from Minneapolis. A few years after the war, I was living in New York, and he called me up. He was in for the World Series. He owns a tavern in

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Minneapolis. And boy did he give me the VIP... He was with somebody else and asked me if I could get another girl. And the four of us went out. They ordered hors d'oeuvres: ~~bardos(?)~~ with their ^{drinks} in their room - and I think they were at the ^{Sherry Netherland} ~~(unclear)~~ or Plaza Hotel.

FARLEY: First Class, huh?

SPEER: And they brought up caviar and shrimp - and we went to dinner, then we went to a night club, and Ray Bolger was the featured entertainment, ^{and} I adore dancing, and I loved his dancing - just a marvelous night. So I have friends in Minneapolis, and when I was ^{up} ~~out~~ there I called him up. But of course now he's probably at ~~the~~ retirement age, and they said he was in Florida. As far as I know he still has the tavern.

FARLEY: I guess. At first glance, he looks a little bit like Herb Nash.

SPEER: Yes, a little bit.

FARLEY: Remember Bill Thomas also? ^{the} short red-haired fellow?

SPEER: Bill Thomas - is he the one who just retired? He stayed in the Army? Were you at the reunion at Meade?

FARLEY: Yes.

SPEER: Remember it was just when the hostages were taken?

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FARLEY: Yes.

SPEER: They asked him about it. And he said we'll go in when they lose some, [✓] but we'll go in. And I thought oh, what a shame that they didn't do that. That was such a -- too bad.

FARLEY: Yes, that's right.

SPEER: So, what else you want to know?

FARLEY: The routine, the keypunch. Did you have a lot of traffic to punch? Were you busy all the time?

SPEER: All the time. We never stopped. We never goofed off at all except for tea time. One of the Australian girls, [✓] she must have had an insight ^{de} clock. We would be punching away and punching away and all of a sudden, she stopped, picked up her glass, ^{cup,} and off she went. She always knew when it was 10 o'clock or whatever hour she went.

FARLEY: Everything stopped for tea there.

SPEER: Everything stopped for tea. And that hotel down there ^{near} at the botanical gardens - I've forgotten the name of the hotel. But I had to call upstairs to the ladies room and one of the maids was just setting out and she said, "tea now, everybody."

FARLEY: Is that the hotel that MacArthur had as his

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headquarters?

SPEER:

No. That was ^{Lennon.} Lenin. The first night I arrived in Brisbane - no, on the ship, we had a dance, and the kids got off at ^{Oro} Coral(?) Bay, and they set up an entertainment ^{I mean} and for us to dance with the sailors. And I became acquainted with one of the sailors and made a date to meet him at ^{Lennon} Lenin Hotel - of course not knowing anything about ^{Lennon.} Lenin. It was off limits to GIs, and I didn't know that. So I never did get together with him.

FARLEY:

Well, what else can we put on the record in Brisbane?

SPEER:

I met some of the Brisbane people. I liked the Australians very, very much. As you know, they were very very kindly. A couple of times, if I had been at the movies on my own, they would invite me to their house. A couple of them invited me. I don't remember them and I didn't keep up the friendship, but some of them were very nice.

FARLEY:

You don't correspond with any of them? Send them Christmas cards?

SPEER:

No, no.

FARLEY:

There's one person, ^H John Walsh, ^H who I worked with in hut 7. I have sent him a Christmas card every

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Christmas since 1946 I guess, and he has responded.

SPEER: When he responds, does he tell you anything? My brother-in-law was in the Navy and he sends a Christmas card to somebody he was in the Navy with every year like you, ^{sends him a Christmas card.} and all they do is sign their name to the card.

FARLEY: That's no good.

SPEER: That's ^{so} frustrating.

FARLEY: No we don't do that. We write long letters. And the Australians have a similar reunion group, and John keeps me up to date on who died and who's sick and...

SPEER: Oh, he's Australian?

FARLEY: He's Australian - I'm sorry -

SPEER: Oh, I should tell Rita about that.

FARLEY: Oh yes. They call it the Central Bureau Reunion Group.

SPEER: I ought to write that down because I'm in touch with Rita. (leaves room)

FARLEY: That's all right - go ahead. Do you remember ^{Dick} ~~the~~ ^{Vic} Rose or John Thomas?

SPEER: I remember the names.

FARLEY: They were analysts who went to New Guinea with the group probably that got off from your ship.

SPEER: Central Bureau Reunion?

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FARLEY: I'll write to you and I'll give you the complete address. Remember Joe Richards?

SPEER: Yeh, I remember Joe Richards

FARLEY: I remember Joe Richards married an Australian girl, and he's a charter member of this Central Bureau Group.

SPEER: Does he live down there?

FARLEY: No, he lives in Silver Springs.

SPEER: Oh.

FARLEY: Out near....

SPEER: Is that where you live, Bob?

FARLEY: I live near the University of Maryland in Hyattsville which is about nine miles from the Capital ^{between} ~~between~~ on the road to Baltimore.

SPEER: Uh huh.

FARLEY: Now this is the address of the Central Bureau Reunion.

SPEER: This was taken at that Maryland reunion. And here is another one of our officers. And I'd have to look up his name in...

FARLEY: Oh I know him. Joe ~~Hamard~~ ^{LaMoine} LaMoine.

SPEER: Joe ~~Hamard~~ ^{LaMoine} LaMoine, that's it.

FARLEY: I want to look at this ^{picture} this was in - is that '78? Bob Slack and Dick somebody, John Bell - remember John Bell? He was at the 125th. ^{Bill} ~~Berie~~ Wolf - remember

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Bill
Berie Wolfe?

SPEER: Yes, yes.

FARLEY: He was ^{the} C.O. Here's John Thomas.

SPEER: It's not a very good picture. I mean it was taken too far away. I became very friendly with a fellow who is a lawyer out in Missouri at that reunion, and I sent a couple of Christmas cards ^{but then....} ~~to him~~. His son was down there I think going to one of the universities. ^{See, the} ~~The~~ reason I ^{hesitate} ~~had to~~ - did you go to the California^a reunion?

FARLEY: Yes

SPEER: ^{See,} The reason I ^{hesitated} ~~had to take it~~ - when ^I ~~they~~ found out it was going to be in San Francisco, I was delighted.

FARLEY: So was I.

SPEER: But when they changed it I thought - it's a question of transportation - see, I don't drive. And I thought oh, it's going to be a big ^{hassle} ~~hassle~~ to try to get out there. Now the same thing happened - where did we have the reunion - at Arlington?

FARLEY: Arlington Hall?

SPEER: Arlington Hall. I was in touch with ^{Owen} ~~Aaron~~ Lynch. And I asked him if I could get a taxi from the station in Washington to Arlington Hall. I said how much would it cost, and he said about \$6.00. But when I got to

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Washington he and Jane were waiting for me.

FARLEY: Oh ~~good~~ great.

SPEER: He said I found out it costs too much for you so I came. He's always been very very nice to me at all of the reunions.

FARLEY: He's down in Florida.

SPEER: If you don't have his address - because I have their address.

FARLEY: I think I found his address.

SPEER: You did.

FARLEY: Did you get a complete listing of the group?[?]

SPEER: That was in California? Yes I did.

FARLEY: And what was the fellow's name? Boom-Boom, or Ack Ack Aaronson? The one that Aaronson compiled? It's an IBM computer run?

SPEER: No, I think I got a letter.

FARLEY: Let me send it to you. I'll duplicate a copy.

SPEER: Okay.

FARLEY: Duplicate a copy and the addresses^{list}. He was peddling those things for \$2.00. And I said the heck with this. I burned a copy - duplicated a copy. So I'll duplicate one for you and send it out.

SPEER: Okay.

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FARLEY: You might find some names in there that you remember.

SPEER: There are a number of names of ~~blacks~~^{WACs} that I recognize and wonder what happened to them. But they probably wouldn't remember me ~~since~~^{if} I haven't been in touch with them, *all this time.*

FARLEY: I remember very few of them because as I say I wasn't associated with them too closely.

SPEER: No ~~WACs~~^{WACs} worked in your hut at all?

FARLEY: No. The Australian girls did. But when we went up north, Mary Jane Ford and two or three others were in the shop. These were the group of girls that were in New Guinea and they were all dumped into a big Quonset hut, so we were working all together and I remember those girls. Tell me about your departure from Brisbane.

SPEER: They sent us up to ~~San Estaban~~^{San Estaban} ~~(?)~~. Were you ever up there?

FARLEY: No.

SPEER: Oh a lovely, lovely place. Don't know if there are pictures in here or not. A lovely place on the water. We use to go out at night and the fellows would get chicken from one of the restaurants there ~~there~~^{around} and we'd have a picnic at night. Rosemary and Phil had a hut.

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They gave them a hut to themselves. And I don't remember how long we were there - not very long. Maybe ten days, maybe two weeks - not much more when they told us to go back we were going to Manila for going home. And that was sometime in October because my birthday is in October and I remember that it was around my birthday that we were sent back to San Miguel and ^{then} eventually down to Manila. And we stayed at the Jesuit school down there that had been bombed quite a bit until we got...we went over on the ^{Lurline} ~~Lerlane(?)~~ and came back on the same ship.

FARLEY: I see. Now when you went to San Miguel, did you do the same type job - key punch?

SPEER: Yes, but you see, the war was over within a matter of maybe two weeks.

FARLEEY: Okay.

SPEER: I think we ^{got} ~~left~~ there the first of August - I said it in the letter I think. And Rosemary and I worked on the paper. And I never kept a copy of it. I can't even tell you the name of it. ~~Not Clamor~~ ^{the one in} ~~Not Clamor, but it was~~ ^{Not}

Clamor, but ^{the one in} ~~something else.~~ San Miguel.

FARLEY: I know - I'm just thinking. I think I remember seeing one copy. It was a typewritten....Was George Frank the

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editor?

SPEER: I can't remember who it was.

FARLEY: ~~Wisaki? Wysocki?~~ Wysocki?
Wysocki

SPEER: Wisaki might have been.

FARLEY: ~~Wisaki.~~ Wysocki

SPEER: Ted Wisaki - yes.

FARLEY: He's in bad shape.

SPEER: Is he?

FARLEY: Really bad shape. He's got ^{either} Parkinson's disease ~~or~~ of
Alzheimer's disease - something like that. He's up in
Buffalo. We were able to find him and contacted him,
invited him to the Long Beach reunion, but he couldn't
make it. So it could have been ^{Wysocki.} ~~Wisaki.~~ I'll look
through all our records and see if I can find one copy.

SPEER: I'd love to get a copy of it because I once made up a
cross word puzzle ^{for} ~~to~~ that paper.

FARLEY: You did? You should have joined us because a lot of
the people...

SPEER: Now if I had a job like that in the Army, I would have
been absolutely delirious with happiness.

FARLEY: You should have stayed ^{on} ~~home~~ as a cryptanalyst, right?
If you could make up cross word puzzles, my gosh,
really. We have about three people whose hobby is

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cross word puzzles.

SPEER: Solving them - or making them up?

FARLEY: Making them up.

SPEER: Making them up?

FARLEY: Yes. ^{One was} The number one cryptanalyst in the building for years and years - Bill Lutwiniak - I don't know if you know that the - He was a sergeant who was in the CBI during WWII. But that was his hobby. New York Times - he does and ~~Cross Sticks (?)~~ ^{Crostics}, and Saturday Review.

SPEER: There was a contest - did you read about it just recently?

FARLEY: No.

SPEER: There was a contest to see who could solve the puzzle the fastest. And some woman does the Times puzzle with a stop watch.

FARLEY: My gosh - is that right? She must be amazing.

SPEER: I ~~was~~ ^{lose} interested ^{in it}. I start a cross word puzzle and then I get to a point where I can't answer the what-ever-it-is, and then say the heck with it. But if somebody else is doing a puzzle and they say to me what's a five letter word for so and so, I can give them the answer.

FARLEY: Sally, were you involved at all in the destruction of all the material that we accumulated in the war and

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after the war?

SPEER: *No.* What did you do with it? Burn it?

FARLEY: Burn it. Most of it was burned. There were a couple of people who thought well, this is a shame. All this good paper going to waste, and the Filipino kids not having anything to write on. So they stole some of this material, threw it on the back of a truck, and the wind blew some of it off, and it was found. And it was almost a court martial for some of these people. Bad compromise. So we spent many a day burning as much of that material as we could. I guess we left a lot of equipment there, didn't we? Do you know what happened to all of our equipment?

SPEER: I have no idea.

FARLEY: So, how did you folks kill the time then? *?* working on the newspaper was one, and playing bridge, or writing letters home? *?*

SPEER: No, I don't know. When we got to Manila, of course - we were there maybe two weeks before we got home, ~~and it~~ *you know,* ~~was~~ *us leaving San Estaban at* hurry up and wait. They had this ~~meeting~~ *meeting* seven o'clock in the morning *?* to go back to Manila *?* and we met some GIs and we went out on trips with them. I remember once they took us out on a boat somewhere.

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No, they were Navy fellows, and they had big thick steaks. But they had one of those stoves that campers use and we thought it would be just great until one of them said, "Oh, there's a rat in that box."

FARLEY: Oh, no. So you lost your appetite. ^(laughter) Did you go to ~~Corregidor at all?~~ ^{Corregidor at all?}

SPEER: We started out to ~~Corregidor~~ ^{Corregidor} and I was getting kind of seasick, and I thought I wonder how much farther we're going. ~~A fellow came~~ ^{And someone came} over to me and said we're turning back and I said what? He said we're turning back, ~~+~~ there was a typhoon warning. So we never got there.

FARLEY: Were you up in the Philippines when the typhoon hit?

SPEER: No.

FARLEY: There was one that hit there in July. I think of '45. Almost a week after we got there.

SPEER: No, see we got there in August ^{1st.} ~~September.~~

FARLEY: We experienced one. It blew the steel roofs off the mess hall, ~~+~~ miserable. Did you see any of the POW Japs when you were in there?

SPEER: I met an OSS man and he took us to a prison. But the Japanese men to me looked just like the Filipinos. Just very small. I don't remember whether ^{if} we ^{could} ~~talked~~ to them - whether ~~they~~ spoke any English. Chances are he

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did not. I just remember seeing him.

FARLEY: Remember ^{Clarence Yamagata?} ~~Clam Chow Magato?~~ He was a nice fellow, wasn't he?*

SPEER: Yes, yes. Very Nice.

FARLEY: We heard from him for the Long Beach reunion. He said he couldn't make it, but he sent money enough for a dozen, two dozen, or five dozen bottles of whatever we wanted to buy and they bought wine and we all toasted ~~Clam~~ ^{Clarence}.

SPEER: Oh that was nice.

FARLEY: He's a fine fellow. A very fine fellow.

SPEER: Was Colonel ^{Sin Kov} ~~Sinkowitz~~ there?

FARLEY: No. His wife died just before New Year's. Before Christmas. Last year. And we had the reunion in October, and she was pretty bad off. So he didn't come. I did hear that he probably will come to the one in Orlando, I hope. You're going to be there?

SPEER: I hope.

FARLEY: I hope. Why not?

SPEER: I have a friend who is also an ex-WA/C. She's a retired major. She never went overseas. She comes originally from Maine, and she goes to Florida in the Winter time. I don't know exactly when she goes down there. ^{I had mentimed it to} She and

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I had a reunion in Washington, D.C. She was on the way back to Maine, and I thought that ^{was} ~~would be~~ a good spot. And she invited me to come down to Florida. I think she's in Fort Lauderdale. I'm not sure. But she drives. So it may be that she could take me to ~~the~~ Orlando. ~~reunion.~~

FARLEY: That's close. Very close. Or you could jump on a plane there. If you give me a call, I'd be delighted to meet you at the airport.

SPEER: ~~That's nice of you.~~ Thanks Very Much. I'd like to go to the reunion even though I don't remember an awful lot of the people. Not too many WAACs go. When we had the reunion in Arlington, I was in touch with ^{Owen, I guess} ~~all of my guests~~ all the time, and I was asking them how many WAACs. I must have gone to the ladies room, and when I came back they said - Maury Coombs ~~is~~ I think was talking - and they said he called on you to say something, but you weren't here. Somebody said, ^{What} ~~what~~ would you have said? " And I said, I was going to say that I was so happy to hear that there were only three or four WAACs who were going to be there, but nobody told me the wives were going to be there.

FARLEY: Too bad you didn't say that. The thing with the Long

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Beach reunion was somebody got on the ball and called two or three WAACs and the WAACs ^{grabbed it} ~~went~~, and they called all their friends and they must have had fifty WAACs there this time.

SPEER: I was surprised when I saw some of the names of the WAACs.

FARLEY: They really livened it up. They really did.

← SPEER: Yes, because they could reminisce with you, whereas the wives couldn't, so it probably was good.

FARLEY: Oh yes, really ~~could~~ ^{ran} good. But it made me feel really bad that we had taken so long to contact some of these gals. And they said that they would have been delighted to join ^{us} but they never knew about these reunions. I ~~went~~ ^{ran} to the reunion at Fort Meade in 79, and I called a few of the girls and they just weren't interested, so I figured...

SPEER: I know. See I gave the names - who was the fellow that had been writing to me about the Long Beach reunion. He called me very often.

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Speer

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~~SPEER:~~ (Unclear)

FARLEY: Norman Boner, Bohner.

SPEER: Yes, yes. I sent him the names of several of the girls whose addresses I had, but I don't know if they were still intact or not. But I ^{saw} ~~thought~~ that Phyllis Pearce was one of the girls. I had a very old address for her. And I didn't have an address for Sis Sukoviak(?) .

FARLEY: I have it.

SPEER: And her name is ^{Kubik} ~~Kesstick~~ ^{Kubik} now. Same as my niece's - that why I remember the name. And I think she ran an ad in one of the military magazines, and that was my suggestion for the first reunion, because I figured a lot of ex-GIs read...or belonged to the American Legion ^{or one of those} and it might be good to put an ad in that.

FARLEY: I think so, yes. I ran some ads in the ^R ~~E~~ retired officers' magazine and the Army Times and someplace else. I just sent in the data on the SIS reunion in Orlando.

SPEER: Well, good. Then we ^{should} ~~just~~ get a lot of people..

FARLEY: I'm also the secretary of the Phoenix Society ^{which is the} ~~of the~~ NSA retiree's organization, and I write a monthly newsletter. And I usually throw in a little item, a little blurb on the reunion. It's amazing - people

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that you think were never even assigned to it call up
and say thanks for the information, I'll be there. ~~so~~ Sally,
when I interviewed Sue Cross and Mary Jane Ford and Phyllis
Pearce, ~~Priscilla~~ ^{Priscilla} ~~unclear~~, Sue Cross took off on the fact that
the WAACs got a bum deal. Reputation-wise, ~~they~~ they
didn't get any credit.

SPEER: Oh that's propaganda - civilian propaganda. I think
one of the things that they told us was - in the
newspapers of the United States they said 3,000 WAACs
were sent to Africa and 1500 of them were pregnant.

FARLEY: Yes, yes. But Sue was very unhappy. She said that
even now - if there's an item in the newspaper that ~~is~~^{if}
an ex-WAVE murdered her husband, it would be one
sentence at the bottom saying that this lady served in
the WAVES during WWII. But if an ex-WAAC murdered her
husband, she said the headline would read "Ex-
WAAC murders husband."

SPEER: I don't know. I wouldn't say that. But you mentioned
the Red Cross, and the Red Cross certainly had no love
for the WAACs.

FARLEY: No.

SPEER: And in our newspaper about two weeks ago - and I was
going to write to them - they said ~~women~~ women, too, served

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during WWII. And I thought Oh, that's interesting, maybe they'll have a story about a WAAC. Red Cross Girls! I was going to write to them and say big deal. They got \$250.00 a month, they could go out with officers, and we couldn't, and - big deal!

FARLEY: Sally, since - I was in San Miguel, ^{and also} ~~lost (?)~~ in New Caledonia, hungry, thirsty, and went into someplace - I've forgotten where it was - ^{Noumea} ~~New Mia (?)~~, I guess, to a Red Cross station, and they handed me a doughnut. I said, "Gee, thanks, 15 cents - 15 cents! I said, "I can't believe this - 15 cents!" And I said, "you keep it." Since that time, I have not given a nickel.

SPEER: Nor I, Nor I.

FARLEY: Now I'm saying things on tape that we shouldn't be saying, but...

SPEER: You can always ...

FARLEY: Obliterate it.

SPEER: They never did anything for us in Brisbane. They had a place - I guess we could go there if you had a date with a GI. They never did anything for us until one time they decided - I guess they had an attack of conscience - and they decided to have a party for us. And it just happened that that day some VIPs came along

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to Yeronga Park

~~to Yeronga Park~~

~~through the park~~ and they took them through the huts which were a mess and everybody was confined to quarters. Fortunately, I was working the 8-4 shift and when I got off downtown, one of the girls said don't go home, so I ~~went~~ ^{wasn't involved in it.} ~~(unclear)~~. But that, ~~(unclear)~~ ^{we} never did get to the Red Cross party.

FARLEY: Who was the C.O. of the WAC group in Brisbane?

SPEER: In Brisbane, it was Lieutenant Walsh.

FARLEY: Never knew her. How about the one in San Miguel?

SPEER: San Miguel? Can't remember her name, but she comes from Bridgeport, and I understand she was in insurance here in Bridgeport. And the first year or two after the war we had a reunion in New York at the old New Yorker hotel, which doesn't exist anymore. But she was there, ^{as one of the} ~~a~~ sort of guests at the table, and I went up and spoke to her, but she wasn't very... She was lovely in San Miguel because no matter who of the GIs came and said we'd like to invite some of the girls to our camp - we're having a party, she always gave her consent. And another thing she did: she used to have the fellows who worked in the kitchen make coffee and toast at eleven o'clock every night. ~~7~~ ^{we} used to have a snack every night. She was very, very nice.

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FARLEY: But she would rather have forgotten the past? At the reunion?

SPEER: I guess that was the idea - or she probably said I don't know this one from a hole in the wall, ^{which} ~~but~~ she didn't. But I introduced myself.

FARLEY: ^{You could fake it. You could say,} ~~She could have said~~ "oh yes I remember you."

SPEER: Yes. Which is what most people would do.

FARLEY: Sure they would.

SPEER: Or ask you what you were doing in civilian life ^{or anything like the}

FARLEY: ^{or} try to converse a little bit. Sally, is there anything else that we should put on this tape? I'm taking up a lot of your time, I know.

SPEER: No, because you ask the questions of me for what you want to know. I don't know what you want to know.

FARLEY: Yes. Is there anything that you want to put on tape? Any gripes, or any complaints, or any comments or anything that you'd like to ^{for the} ~~put~~ on record? What this will be used for, Sally, is to develop a classified history of intelligence in the Pacific, and I'm trying to fit in a little bit of each. ^{we} ~~we~~ don't have many interviews with ~~WACs~~. In fact, it's a big gap, and I've been trying to fill in even the social aspects of it, as well as the operational. I got quite a bit

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from the three girls who were in New Guinea on the operational activity, [✓] the cryptanalytic end of it.

SPEER: Well, I think it was good to get information from New Guinea because they had it rough, I know. Some of the girls told me it was so terribly hot down there. Carbon paper would curl up when they tried to put carbon paper in to write a letter. Little things like that. And of course they always had to go out with a GI. They couldn't go out alone. Which wasn't bad either. ^(laughter) We had a lot more freedom than they did.

FARLEY: Do you remember the names of the equipment you used? Did you start with a certain type and finish the war working on a certain type, or was there any improvement at all?

SPEER: It was exactly the same.

FARLEY: It was all IBM keypunch material- key punch equipment?

SPEER: I assumed it was IBM key punch because I know the big sheets that they had in the machine were Remington -not IBM. Remington.

FARLEY: Oh, I beg your pardon. You didn't run the cards through the big machine? They ^{passed} ~~cast~~ that to somebody else.

SPEER: No, somebody else did that.

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FARLEY: And they didn't tell you that it was for the aid of the cryptanalyst^s - all of these machine runs?

SPEER: Well, I assumed that and I knew that it was trying to break the Japanese code.

FARLEY: Yes.

SPEER: And then when Dewey ran for President after they told us not to talk about it for seven years, ~~he~~ he bragged about the fact that we broke the Japanese code.

FARLEY: Yes, ^{ah} right. Sally, did you get any lectures at all about security? Keep it quiet. Don't talk about it.

SPEER: Not that I remember. I don't think we did. It was just as if we were working. We came ^{to work} ~~in~~ at 8 o'clock, went home at four. Or we came in at four and went home at midnight. And as far as I remember, there were no orientation lectures or any thing of that sort.

FARLEY: How were you admitted to the area in which you worked? Did you have some sort of identification?

SPEER: I think there was ^{maybe} somebody at the gate. I think I have a picture of Lieutenant ^{Le Moine} ~~(unclear)~~ standing there at the gate. I guess we had an identification - yes, we had a card. I have the card somewhere. Yes. But that's all.

FARLEY: Did you ever hear of anybody being involved in probably

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a security compromise or maybe talking when they shouldn't have talked, or being approached by a spy? None at all? *I don't either.*

SPEER: No, see, we wouldn't have had that kind of opportunity. I mean, the boys would go to pubs ^{pub crawling.} but the girls didn't. The only place where we had a social life was in the non-com~~ing~~ club or ^{if we went to} in somebody's home. But nobody ever said don't talk to ^{the Australians} anyone about the work you do. It was emphasized that it was secret work that we weren't to talk about it. And I just never did.

FARLEY: Did you sign an oath sometime early in your career? In the CB area that you wouldn't reveal any secrets?

SPEER: Only the ^{thing that I told you ~~about~~} one at the end of the war that we weren't to talk about it for seven years.

FARLEY: Okay, but you didn't sign something earlier than that?

SPEER: I don't remember, *that we did.*

FARLEY: Okay, Okay. Did you ever run across any British gals - any *Wrens* or any New Zealand girls, or any...?

SPEER: There were British men - but I don't remember any *Wrens* or WAFS or Australian girls.

FARLEY: I never saw any New Zealanders, no. And you knew Professor ^{Room.} ~~Rume(?)~~. I think he was a Dutch professor from some college around that area. And he worked with

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two people. All I remember was a little short blond Australian Army gal, and a big, talk, lanky American Lieutenant, and they got married. They worked together too long, I guess.

SPEER: Quite a few of them got married, and you wonder how the marriages turned out. Of course, Maury Coombs ~~(?)~~ married an Australian girl. I guess ^{Truex} ~~Truax (?)~~ did, too, because ~~---~~ he stayed in Brisbane.

FARLEY: Did any WAACs marry Australian men?

SPEER: One girl, but I don't remember her name. But I think her picture is in here. Would it be in here?

FARLEY: Did she stay down there or brought him back?

SPEER: When we went up to ^{San Estaban} ~~San Estaban (?)~~ it seems to me there's a picture of the two of them sitting like this. And Stella Kirkwood, ^{*} did you know her?

FARLEY: Yes.

SPEER: You knew Stella. Well, she developed TB. She was in a hospital up in Worchester, Massachusetts for about four years, I guess. She met another GI who had TB and they married. ^{That} ~~I was~~ surprised ^{me} I wasn't in touch with her at all. They were living in Springfield. She came from Framingham, and when I was up in Springfield maybe a year or so ago, I looked in the Springfield book and

(FARLEY: No, I did not know that.)

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they weren't listed. So whether they both died or what happened, I don't know.

FARLEY: I may have an address. I'm not sure. I think she's still alive. I'm not sure.

SPEER: I had an address for her, but maybe you have a different address.

FARLEY: I don't know, but I'll send you ^{that list.} ~~whatever it is.~~

SPEER: Okay.

FARLEY: You can check it out and update your address book.

SPEER: Yes. Because I'd like to know what happened to her. I used to go up to the hospital to visit her a couple of times, and she asked me to be her bridesmaid.

FARLEY: *Sally*, Do you know if anybody ever prepared a history of the WACs in Australia? Anybody write anything?

SPEER: No, but ^{isn't that} ~~it's~~ too bad if they didn't. It would have been good. It was hurry up and get back to San Miguel if you're going to go home. ^(looking at photos) This was the sort of hut that Rosemary and Phil had.

FARLEY: A ^{bamboo} ~~(unclear)~~ hut?

SPEER: Yes.

FARLEY: I Do know that Sue ^{Cross} ~~Krause~~ is writing a book, I believe, and she's going to call it the ~~WACs Works~~ ^{"WACs Works"}.

SPEER: That's good. I often thought about writing a book. I

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"WAC-O,"

was going to call mine ~~WAC-O~~, but you know there's been Jackie-O, and couple of others. One of the Australian girls came from one of those island up from Brisbane, and one day she got a letter from home after the war was over and she said, "~~WAC-O~~" and I said, "What's the matter?" She said, "^{my} family tells me we can go back again" to wherever the island was, ~~is~~ a very familiar island.

FARLEY: They lived on the island?

SPEER: Yes. They lived on the island, yes. Her father ^{was} in business there.

FARLEY: Up as far as Tahiti, ^{up that far} or not?

SPEER: No, not too far. ~~(unclear)~~ There's our lieutenant.

FARLEY: I remember that name, yes.

SPEER: (Unclear) She's the one in San Miguel.

FARLEY: Poor old Tom is gone. Tom ~~Kahn(?)~~ Todd.

SPEER: He's dead?

FARLEY: Yes.

SPEER: Oh, is he?

FARLEY: He died right after the reunion you have the pictures of. That was his last reunion. The one you showed me. Here's a bunch of Aussies. I think we can be very grateful to the people who prepared that SIS ^R record.

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They did an outstanding job.

SPEER: The only thing that was disappointing about it - and I know why - because they said there was a paper shortage at the time - was that they didn't put in the addresses of the Australians, ^{just} just of the Americans. And that was too bad.

FARLEY: Yes.

SPEER: My cousin got a field commission in the European theatre and he was sent over to the Pacific and he looked me up, and this was our club. He's not in the picture, but I remember that night very very well.

FARLEY: A lot of fond memories.

SPEER: Yes, ^{they're} pleasant memories for me. And I loved the Philippines. My nephew is married to a Filipino. He was in ROTC at law school, and he was sent over to Clark. He was always correcting me because I said Clark Field and he said ^{it's} Clark Air Base. And then he writes, Angie came in with two other girls. She was a library scientist, and she said they were looking for somebody at Clark - she was inquiring about it. My nephew had a girl every place he ever went. There was always a girl in ^{Gil's} ~~Bill's~~ life. When the girls left, he turned to the other fellow who was in his office and he said I don't

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know about you, but I'm going to marry the tall one.

FARLEY: Is that right? And it happened that way?

SPEER: Within six months ^{they got married.} ~~it happened.~~ He had girls -- he's a darling person. He said to me one day, I got thinking about different girls that I went with and I was putting them in alphabetical order and I couldn't think of anybody beginning with F.

FARLEY: He had that many, huh? Quite a rounder.

SPEER: But not a wolf type. You know, he just liked girls, and that was it. In fact, he was so naive about it. He would say come on over to my house for the weekend - my mother will put you up. Most girls thought this was the real thing, [&] meeting his parents. *And it wasn't.*

FARLEY: That's great. That's great. Sally, do you think I've exhausted you with enough questions?

SPEER: I'm perfectly willing to answer any questions that you have. But as I say, I don't know what ^{to tell you} ~~you want...~~

FARLEY: I really don't have any more. This is as good as I can make. Since you weren't involved in the operational end of it, ^{we} can't belabor that. Well, as I say, I'll leave you alone and -- is there any classification at all on this, Sally? Should we make it confidential, or...?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SPEER: I know that we were screened. They cleared us in some way, but I don't know what the process was. How they did it.

FARLEY: Well, let's make it CONFIDENTIAL. Keep it on the record. So somebody can't come in off the street and ask to hear it.

SPEER: Oh.

FARLEY: Control it. I'll send you the form letting you decide accessibility - what people can hear it. Legitimate researchers....

SPEER: Oh I don't care Bob, anybody can hear it from my point of view. You're the one who has to decide who ^{should} ~~can~~ hear it and who should not.

FARLEY: Well, I'll send you the form anyway. I can't think of anything else, but ^I hope to see you at the reunion.

SPEER: I hope. See the treatment that I go in for tomorrow ...

FARLEY: Shall I turn it off? Let's turn it off. Again, Sally, thanks so much. It's so nice to see you again.

SPEER: You're welcome.

FARLEY: You think I don't, but I remember you.

SPEER: You do, really?

FARLEY: I sure do. So I'll turn it off, and thanks much for your time.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~