Oral History Interview

with

Selmer S. Norland

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M62, SAB II, NSA

By: Robert Farley
Henry Schorreck

FARLEY: Today is 14 May 1980. Our interviewee, Mr. Selmer S. Norland. Mr. Norland was assigned to 6813th SSD in Little Brickhill, England and worked at Bletchley Park during World War II. The interview is taking place in the M62 area, SAB II, NSA. Interviewers Mr. Henry Schorreck and Bob Farley. Mr. Norland will recall his experiences as a crypto-linguist during the World War II days at Bletchley Park.

Selmer, what we'd like to do is just pick your brains, ask you to recall anything you can remember about the military activities at the 6813th, your military experiences, anything that you recall on World War II. And as I said, don't hold back anything that you think might be of interest because it might be and then things that we're not sure of, will come back and ask for an expansion later on. But so many, so many people feel that if they say something that sounds a little ridiculous or a little inconsequential

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it is, but it might be the one piece of information we need primarily on the Enigma, something of this type. So to start it off, Selmer, would you recall your family background, your early history as a teenager before you came into the military--to give us some idea of where you started?

NORLAND: There's not much to say on that subject. Well, I was born on a farm in North Central Iowa in 1916 and it might be of marginal interest that my father was an immigrant from Norway. He had come to the United States when he was fully grown, I think in his, maybe around twenty years old or thereabouts. He had become a naturalized citizen and was farming. My mother was of Norwegian ancestry, but both she and her parents had been born in the U.S. And they were living in an area which was one of these sort of Norwegian enclaves; it was fairly typical of that part of the country. What I went to, I guess to be perfectly obvious, from the year of my birth, by the time I was growing up this was depression time, and the only way I could possibly go to college at the time was to go to the Junior College which was located in the small town near which I lived where I in fact went to high school. So, my first two years of college were Waldorf Junior College in Forest City, Iowa. No one has ever heard of it unless they happen to have a Winnebago motor home--all of which come from Forest City. I stayed at home during the two years that I went to Junior College and I had scholarships,

so I think my total college costs were probably fifteen dollars a quarter plus the cost of my books. Then, after I finished my two years of college there, I went to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa where I also got a scholarship and they arranged an NYA job, National Youth Administration, for those who may never have heard of that phenomenon. And there I did my last two years of college. I originally had intended to major in History, but in the course of events so many English courses were required that I just took a few extra and wound up with a double major, actually in History and English with minors in German and Education. After graduating from college I took a teaching job--taught high school in St Charles, Minnesota for three years--from September 1938 until late May of 1941. I registered for the draft while I was teaching in St Charles, Minnesota, it's in the southeastern part of the state. Then, somewhat reluctantly after three years of teaching--I enjoyed it very much--but I had always had it in the back of my mind that I wanted to go back to college and do graduate work. So I resigned after my third year and went to the University of Iowa to get a Masters Degree in History with a minor in International Relations. Pearl Harbor came along in December of that year and not too far into 1942 my draft number came up and I remember, after a couple of aborted attempts to enlist in the Navy and their V7 program, I had two physicals--I was rejected by the Navy because I had flat feet--didn't seem to have

bothered the Army at all. I was given a deferrment by my draft board to allow me to finish the year and to get my Masters Degree. And this presented some problems because the University of Iowa dormitories, including the one in which I was living, had been taken over by the U.S. Navy for their V5 program so that the university was either forced or agreed to curtail the school year by about a month and therefore I had one month less time to write my thesis and complete the work to get my masters. On the other side of the coin, a very patriotic faculty cooperated by waiving many of the exams and the orals and that sort of thing so that--to make a long story short I did get my Masters Degree then in early May of 1942. I didn't get my call to report to service until late July of 1942. I remember going to Fort Snelling, Minnesota where I took my physical and they made note of the fact that I had flat feet, but that didn't stop them when they, slow them down in the slightest. So I was sworn in then on July 29th and given a delay to go home to get my affairs in order and was given a reporting date of August 11, 1942 and I did then report to Fort Snelling in Minneapolis on the 11th of August 1942 to begin my military duty. I was there about four or five days, most of which were testing and I remember being part of a detail. There had been a fire in a warehouse on the post and I spent at least one day, and possibly a couple of days, sort of helping to clean up, sort out the debris left from the fire. And I was

rudely awakened very early one morning with the information that I was on orders to go to some place, Camp Crowder, Missouri. I hadn't the faintest idea where Camp Crowder was or even what kind of post it was, so soon as I had an opportunity I dashed to the day room where they had a map of military installations--found out Camp Crowder was in Missouri and it was a Signal Corps camp. That was the first idea I had of that. We left--it seems to me there were perhaps six or eight of us who traveled by train from Fort Snelling, Minneapolis down to the railroad station nearest Camp Crowder, which I think was Neosho. And we arrived there on a Sunday in middle August 1942, my first exposure to the Ozarks and the clay of the Ozark Hills. On Monday, again there was more testing and as I recall, we'd finished the testing which included the Morse code aptitude test and a few other things of that nature. We were taken to some office where, what I call an Acting PFC, I guess it was, who was interviewing people for assignments, and I recall as I was waiting for my turn to talk to him I saw on the blackboard written behind him, "priority for today - students for crypt school." So when I got there it came my turn to be interviewed, this fellow asked me what I would like to do and I didn't honestly have any idea, but I pointed to that legend on the blackboard. They needed people to go to cryptographic school, so I asked him what that was. He said he wasn't sure, but he thought it was something like censoring mail.

And he said, "That's a priority so that might be a good idea. I'll put you down for that." And then he started asking me a few questions and very rapidly got to, "Where was your father born," and when I told him Norway, he said, "I'm sorry, that wipes you out completely. Even if your father had been born in Canada we couldn't send you to cryptographic school." Then, after he'd finished, I wound up with somebody who asked me if I'd be interested in going to Officer Candidate School. And again, without any clear notion of whether that was the right thing to do or not, I recall somebody had told me before I got into the Army, "If you ever get a chance to go to OCS, take it." So I told them I was interested. So he said, "All right I'll set you up for an appointment with a lieutenant in the afternoon." So in the afternoon I went to another office. I went to talk to a lieutenant and in a matter of a couple of minutes it was agreed that I would be put on a list to go to Officer Candidate School. It's perhaps worthy of mention that Camp Crowder had set up what they call an OCPS, Officer Candidate Preparatory School they insisted that everyone go through before going to the OCS which is at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

FARLEY: How long was the course, the prep school?

NORLAND: The course, the prep school, I don't really remember. It seems to me it might have been six weeks or so, however, during the course of that I came down with a very acute respiratory problem. It wasn't pneumonia but close to

that so I was hospitalized for a period of time and I lost a little time out of that. I had to wait for while before there was an opening in prep school, too. As soon as it was agreed that I would go to prep school and then with the view of going on to OCS, then the man looked down at--obviously with the results of my test scores and he said, "While we're waiting for a spot in prep school to come up, we'll need to send you to a school and judging from your scores in the Morse code I think we'll send you to wire school." So that's how I wound up spending the next perhaps three or four weeks, something like that, learning how to string field wire, climb telephone poles with spurs and all that kind of business, work a switchboard. I did very well in the course and I was subjected to heavy recruitment when I got to the switchboard school to give up my notion of going to OCS and become a faculty member there. I had teaching experience, of course, which they knew and they needed an instructor. But anyway, I persisted and went to the prep school. Again, it's an insignificant detail, but I had the distinction of being the first student ever to go through the prep school without a single gig.

FARLEY: That is an accomplishment!

NORLAND: And I will be the first to admit that a great deal of luck was involved in that. I think if you ever left your footlocker unlocked, you wound up automatically with a whole list of things because there were so many, so many things

that you never kept your footlocker straight except for inspection day and I recall going off one morning to classes remembering that I had forgotten to unlock my footlocker, but it just so happened that the Tac Officer hadn't inspected during the morning. He didn't inspect until afternoon so I had time to recoup.

FARLEY: Did you take basic training at Crowder, any sort of basic training?

NORLAND: Yes, all of my basic training was also at Camp Crowder. I should have mentioned that. That was right after I arrived. Close order drill, I had never done anything of that sort in my life and I recall that our drill sergeant was probably actually a sergeant all right, and it was the first time I had ever been exposed to the "hut, holp, hrep, horp" kind of business. And it was a totally new experience for me. I'd never had any military trining of any kind but I did reasonably well at it and had no difficulty whatsoever. This Camp Crowder was a new post and there were, of course, just a small cadre of experienced army personnel. Our first sergeant--I developed an immediate dislike to him the first time I saw him, but after I'd been there for a few weeks it turned out that he really was a very nice fellow. He wasn't very well educated and I still recall one of those mandatory motivation sessions, or something like that, he made a line--something to the effect that he'd be damned if he wanted to be run by "Hirota" and Hitler. And, so I guess,

he had a vague idea of just who our real enemies were. I also, as a boy on the farm, I had done some shooting with a, I guess after years of coaxing and wheedling, I finally got my parents to consent to my getting a used single shot rifle, .22. And I had done some shooting in that. I guess my main accomplishment with that rifle was to shoot down a pheasant on the fly with a 22 rifle which again there's a good element of luck involved. But I recall in--while I was at Camp Crowder, qualifying, going through the training to qualify for shooting the rifle. We trained on the infield. And on the day we went out to fire for record qualification, we went through a period of an hour or two hours or so in the morning and I was shooting very well and I greatly impressed the instructor who was working close by, and then we got started the actual qualifying round. And I think during the first single shot series, my rifle jammed so I had to switch to a new rifle and I hadn't obviously then the opportunity to zero in on the sights on that, so that that cost me some bullseyes until I learned to adjust. I still wound up--I've even forgotten--you got a marksman, sharpshooter, and expert I guess. I wound up a sharpshooter, anyway. And the instructor was coaxing, urging me to come back and try again because he was sure that if I hadn't had the malfunctioning rifle and had to switch, I could have qualified for expert. That's about the height of my military presence, I guess. And again, an interesting

kind of experience--again, I don't, just don't remember whether prep school was four or six weeks--I'm not positive which--but anyway it seems to me it must have been at least six, but I really can't be certain. But, at the end of that, they had a routine of appearing before first of all the faculty board. Were you at Crowder?

FARLEY: No. Monmouth.

NORLAND: They had a faculty board set up to interview the candidates, the people who were ready to graduate from prep school. And my faculty board, there were three officers on it and it just so happened that the chairman of the faculty board was the man who had been my Tac Officer, and he, incidentally, was Lieutenant Allis of the Allis Chalmers family. He was a very nice person. He had, of course, a terrible, impossible job as a Tactical Officer, but he happened to be the one in charge of our barracks and therefore he knew at the start that I had never got a single gig while I was at prep school and that helped. The other man...another officer, Lieutenant McIntyre, a calvary man, who was sort've the surly one in the whole lot, but I don't recall who the third one was. But I was nervous as the devil when I went before that faculty board. I guess it was perfectly obvious from my voice and perhaps my knees were shaking. I'm not sure. But after things--I think the first question Lieutenant Allis as Chairman of the Board said, "How many gigs have you had, Mr. Norland?" And I said, "None, Sir." And he asked

me how did I explain that, and I don't recall. Probably some lame excuse due to the fact that I tried to find out what they wanted and then did the best job I could in avoiding them or something of that sort. And then McIntyre said, "Are you nervous, Mr. Norland?" I said, "Yes, Sir." He said, "What are you going to do when you get before the Colonel's Board if you're nervous now?" So quick as a flash, amazingly so, I guess my recollection still to this day, I came up with the answer and said, "Well, Sir, I figure if I get by this board safely I'll have no trouble with the Colonel's Board."

FARLEY: Beautiful.

NORLAND: And Lieutenant Allis smiled and Lieutenant McIntyre retreated in his shell. So that was all I remember. I'd been, I had been cautioned about these boards--people asking questions, "How long is a piece of string?" and things of that sort, to try to confuse you. But it never happened to me. And so then in a matter of a few days later I was to appear before a Colonel's Board. The Colonel's Board, did have indeed a colonel as the Chairman and some other field grade officers and a representative from the school. And I recall when it came my turn to appear before the Colonel's Board, the Chairman had some papers in his hand and he said, "Mr. Norland, I see you didn't improve in math very much." There was a little pause and it left me a little concerned. And he said, "You had 99 when you--a score of 99 when you

took the test at the beginning and you only went up to 100 at the end of the course." And then he laughed at his own joke and from then on it was just down hill, gravy, because no one was going to argue or take issue with him on that.

FARLEY: That was the, weren't they called the "Murder Boards"?

NORLAND: They could well have been. I didn't remember that.

FARLEY: That was the final. If you passed that you were in.

NORLAND: That's right. So, then, everything went smoothly on that and I wound up going to Fort Monmouth. We left Crowder somewhere around, I would say, probably around the 10th of November in 1942. There was quite a group of us who went. We had two or three special cars, I think, that we were assigned by train as we traveled from Camp Crowder to Fort Monmouth. And that caused a bit of a problem because the inspectors, after we had arrived and had been unloaded at Fort Monmouth, the inspectors sent in a report that one of the cars on the train had been left very cluttered and littered, and so forth, so that we all were called in and I lost my no-gig status very quickly after arriving at Monmouth because we were all automatically assessed a gig for having been on that train, which had been left in what they considered less than ideal circumstances.

FARLEY: Were you in charge of the element?

NORLAND: No, I wasn't. No I never--we had two different class leaders, as I recall, in our class of three months that I

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spent at Fort Monmouth. The first one was a man named Taylor who'd had considerable army experience. He was well qualified in close order drill and various things of that sort. It seemed to me that they tended to take people who'd had longer army experience as the leaders. But this man Taylor never did graduate with the class but he was kept on, I think, with the thought that probably he had a course or two that he was weak in and he'd repeat it. I don't know whether he ever got through it or not. But the winter of 1942 and 1943 in Fort Monmouth was not the most ideal winter of my life. I had no difficulty whatsoever with the course work and the close order drill. The training instruction that I got at Camp Crowder stood me in good stead there at Monmouth. And I think, in the minimum amount of time, I was excused from the drill sessions and could concentrate on other kinds of activity there. There was a lot of snow, and it was very cold and damp and just plain miserable. I don't recall that I had anything more than the usual cold or two, however, during the winter, but eventually the course was nearing its end and again we had somewhat the same kind of procedure to appear before somebody, a Classification Officer and an Assignment Officer in preparation for the assignments that we were going to have. So I recall, when it came my turn--perhaps a week, ten days, it might have been two weeks before I was due to graduate, I went before a lieutenant and he asked me again, "What would

you like to do?" And by this time I knew a fair amount about what the Signal Corps had. So I said I would be interested in Signal Intelligence. And he took a quick look at my record, my academic grades were outstanding. And he said, "I see you've got German background and that looks like an excellent choice. I'll put you down for Signal Intelligence." Then he said, "How about a second choice?" And I said, out of the hat I said, "An instructor here at the school." And then he said, "We have to put down three choices, so I'll just put down post artillery." That's the way that ended. And then in the matter of a few days, the bulletin board would have listings of so-and-so upon graduation will report to such-and-such a place and in the matter of a few days I went there one day and found that I was to report to Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia. That's the first I had ever heard of Arlington Hall Station, too. I graduated from OCS on the 19th of February 1943 and was given leave then to go home and my orders called for me to report to Arlington Hall Station on March 1, 1943.

FARLEY: You didn't take any other courses like Supply and Administration or Message Center or Field Courses or Combat Training, after you got your commission? You were assigned directly from there to Arlington Hall?

NORLAND: That's right. Straight to Arlington Hall.

FARLEY: Did you remember what they called the course? Was it the Special Radio Course? Or what was the cover that they used

to assign you to Arlington Hall? Was there any designation or any indication as to what you would be doing there?

NORLAND: You know, I don't recall anything of that. That's a good question. I just don't remember anything. The way it seems to me, my recollection would be that, here was my name and it just said Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia without any indication of any kind of assignment.

FARLEY: Earlier, Selmer, they assigned them to a special in quotes "Radio Course" which was a crypt course and the seven or eight month assignment at the hall before going overseas. So they may have changed it by then.

NORLAND: I just don't remember that. There were no other members of my class that had assignments to Arlington Hall, also. I can remember only, perhaps only one. That was Lieutenant Rudolph Morales. And I don't recall where Morales was from, but I remember I did my traveling from Fort Monmouth back to my home in Iowa by train and similarly when it came time to report I also went back to Washington area by train. And I met one or two of these people on the train, who later joined me out at Arlington Hall. I just don't recall the name of one of them. One of them was a lieutenant from Minnesota named Hogan. And I don't recall quite how this happened either, but we got into Union Station in Washington and got out to Arlington some way or other-- I guess probably by bus. I'm really very hazy on that. And reported to Headquarters Building at Arlington Hall, and it seems to me it was somebody named Miss Sass.

FARLEY: Familiar name.

NORLAND: I don't remember her first name or what she looks like, but she did--about the only thing that I recall particularly is that she was very helpful and knew what to tell us to do and all of that sort of thing. The only thing I remember that she commented was--I'd had a crew cut when I was at Fort Monmouth and she looked at me when I reported in and asked me how long it would take to grow some hair on back of my head. But I spent a couple of days, I think, there, sort of processing--one kind or another. I remember being taken to meet Major Bickwitt and Slip Swears, I think, might have been just a lieutenant at that time--conceivably a captain. I remember there were three of us who were taken--we were told eventually we were going to be assigned to the organization of which Major Kullback was the Chief. And I recall Slip Swears took us in to meet Kullback and here we were, three of us, fresh out of OCS and all primed for things like military courtesy and so forth. So we walked in there and snapped to attention and saluted. And my recollection was that Major Kullback seemed almost startled or surprised, and I heard Swears muttering under his breath, "None of this saluting sort of business." And so anyway, we were put at ease and he, I think, gave us thirty seconds, worth of welcome--something of that sort and then we were taken out and my assignment was to an organization under Lieutenant Sidenglanz, Len Sidenglanz, that's right. The

problem was working on sort of an additive dip system that we were working on there at Arlington Hall. And for a period of days--I don't recall just how long, it might have been a week or two, among the things that I discovered that as a "Johnny-come-lately" we had one day off a week and as a "Johnny-come-lately" I certainly wasn't entitled a Sunday. All of the senior people had Sunday, so Thursday was my day off--got that fairly quickly. Lieutenant Hogan and I, Lieutenant Hogan as a Catholic from Minnesota, stopped, had seen the Parish House there in Arlington, so he stopped at the Priest's house and got word of a home in Arlington Forest where a widow had some rooms to rent. So that's how Lieutenant Hogan invited me to share a room with him there in Arlington Forest. That's how I got quarters for the period of time that I lived there.

FARLEY: Selmer, did you get any orientation or any briefing on what you were going to do, what the overall mission of Arlington Hall was? Any sort of a welcome speech other than Kullback's?

NORLAND: You know, I don't recall anything of that sort at all. Later on it seems to me, after we started work, we had some sessions where junior officers were called together and were given some general orientation and I can almost--I think of somebody whose name was well known to me in later years--it slips my memory now. It had something to do with training and orientation there, but I don't recall. It seems to me we went in the basement of the

cafeteria for that kind of instruction. I don't remember anything except very--and even then--very brief orientation on the kind of a problem that I went on and most of us coming in there knew...this included a lot of civilians who had just come out of the Training School in Headquarters Building, as I later found out. I didn't go through any kind of training courses. I was given the opportunity, maybe it's more correct to say that I was encouraged to sign up for a Friedman's Crypt Course shortly after I arrived. So I took that and worked on that at home and didn't do it during working hours. It was sort of on my own. I don't recall--I got through a couple of books, I think, on Friedman's Crypt Course while I was there. But the first part of the problem--my first days, or two or three weeks, I don't recall exactly how long, it seems to me, that I recall sort of copying out messages and overlaps and various things of that sort.

FARLEY: Crosshatch paper?

NORLAND: Yes, that's right. And I recall, the first thing I remember along that was that one day somebody named Frank Brugger came around--was trying to--was asking people if they'd had any German training or anything of the sort. He was, I think, going to start--there were talk...plans to start a course in teaching people how elemental sort of basic language to do some work on overlaps. And when he found out that I'd had a minor in college and even more importantly, I'd taught high school German for three

years, he came out with a Bruggerism, "ah nuts," to this effect, "you don't need any training. We'll just sort of shift you over there fairly quickly." So, I then went to the other side of the room and worked on overlaps for a while. I remember working with Lieutenant Bert Lipschulz and Langden VanNorden, whom I later met at Bletchley, and worked on overlaps for a period of time. I got into some shift work here--there were fewer positions than you had people, so that, again, as a "Johnny-come-lately," I was assigned to come work the evening shift. Some of the people who had been in reading overlaps much longer than I were working on the day shifts so I would come in. I remember there was some difficulty, too. I was assigned to work on an overlap one evening shift and it turned out that the person who worked on it during the day didn't want anybody to touch her stuff so that when I came back the second day I was given another piece of overlap to work on. I don't know whether it was because of the lousy work that I did or just as a matter of principal she didn't want anybody touching her material.

FARLEY: You were not given any crash courses in cryptanalysis at all?

NORLAND: No, the only, the only crypt course I had was the Friedman--given the Friedman books to work on on my own. And I would do a lesson and turn it in or put it in the mail there take turned in and I'd get it back in matter of a day or two graded and that sort of thing. That's the only thing that I recall.

FARLEY: Does it sound like you were assigned to Arlington Hall or were you there for training for ultimate overseas assignment? I mean based on what you're saying up to now?

NORLAND: Up to now I would say I was assigned to Arlington Hall.

FARLEY: It sounds that way.

NORLAND: Yeah. And I guess a lot of people at--I don't even recall--one of the--during the time that I was there--not too long after I arrived--again I don't remember exactly when it was we had to move from the A Building of Arlington Hall over into B Building which was just completed and we moved over there. I would guess it might have been April or May by the time we moved over to B Building. But I continued to work on that problem and...

FARLEY: Was that a German problem, German Navy, Germany Army?

NORLAND: German Foreign Office.

FARLEY: Foreign Office.

NORLAND: Or Diplomatic Code. It's interesting now--I've been in this declassification work, I see a lot of messages signed by a German official named Selchow, and I remember he was the person who was responsible for distributing the code books and all of the kind of material on the system that I was working on at the outset and we would always be very interested if we found a message that had Selchow or a postscript signed by him because we knew it had CI information that would be useful.

FARLEY: Were they simple systems or were they pretty high level and use additives? Remember what type they were?

NORLAND: This was additive systems. I thought then, and I guess I still would say, fairly high level systems. I remember messages, the German diplomatic messages to a number of outstations. I guess I don't recall any particular significant text but they dealt with ship movements, and personnel of that kind. I remember there was a lot of activity, I think we had a lot of overlaps that dealt with the German--one link was--I don't even know how to pronounce it for certain, Lourenco Marques on the East Coast of Southern South Africa, Mozambique, I guess. And that's the only outstation that I recall right now with any certainty. I have a feeling that there were South American links and so forth, too, that we were working on. But I may be influenced by the fact that now in declassification I've seen a lot of those same things.

Overlap work was interesting. I didn't really stay at it long enough to feel that I had developed any great proficiency. For one thing, my German wasn't all that great. I'd had just minored in college and I had taught high school, but this was just the basic fundamentals of grammar and the ordinary routine kind of vocabulary that you had. I didn't have anything of the military terminology or the kind of stuff that you would see in trade and commercial that we would encounter in these messages. I had a very good grasp of the grammar and I picked up a lot of it that way, too.

SIDE TWO

TAPE ONE

FARLEY: That was what I was going to ask about, your German, whether it was of any use? Did you do any book breaking at all?

NORLAND: Not on that problem as I recall. It's funny, I thought I would never forget some of those groups that I'd learned, and that you looked for like the common groups for the period and the comma and the opsots and things of that nature, paragraph indicator that you would find interspersed throughout these overlaps and it always gave you a great feeling of confidence if you got one of these groups in there and then you get something else. I don't recall doing any book breaking, certainly not to any extent. We became, of course, aware of the fact that you had these outstanding linguists over on the other side of the room like Dr. Peppingill and Carl Klitske was over there. There was a Carol Reed if I remember correctly who was working there at that time and there was an Ann somebody or other who later married Sergeant Stalkn~~ick~~ eit. The person I worked with who introduced me to the routine of book breaking was Sergeant Eli Schulman. I thought it was very impressive. I didn't know anything about the subject and he seemed to know a lot. I never encountered him after I left Arlington Hall. As I indicated before, Lieutenant Langden VanNorden was working on that problem. I met Lieutenant Bill Bijure there and some of these

people I later encountered again overseas. I don't really remember just how it was, but sometime--I got to Arlington Hall on the first of March 1943 and it was then some time within a week or so I would say, I was assigned to Sidenglanz's section and then as I indicated--I don't recall, perhaps April or May I got on to the book-breaking kind of problem. And then I suppose it probably was some time in July that I was told to report one day to somebody who informed me that I would be going overseas. And this is where I had contact with then Captain Frank Rowlett for the very first time. He was sort of responsible for organizing this group of people, that I found out later was the first contingent. We were shipment number 0192A. Art Levinson and I always emphasized that we were part of A, all of the other groups, augmentation groups to go for integration at Bletchley Park, had the same shipment number, 0192, but we were the only A. By the time our group was complete, there were ten officers and ten enlisted men.

FARLEY: Did you go as a group?

NORLAND: We went as a group. That's correct.

FARLEY: Before you left Arlington Hall, did they tell you what you were going to be doing in England?

NORLAND: I was just going, just thinking, I don't really remember for certain that I was told we were going to England, but I knew we were going to Europe from the fact they told me that we'd be headed off from Arlington Hall to

Fort Hamilton. So I knew it was Europe. I don't remember clearly that I was told it was England. Perhaps some of the other people who had been there longer knew it was England and I might have heard from them, but I don't recall anyone specifically telling me. But on the other hand it's possible that I might have and it just didn't register all that strongly in my memory. But it was late July when we went through the routine of shots again, and various--there were some--I remember getting together with some of these people. It was made sort of clear to us that Lieutenant Bundy was our senior. I had not had any association with William P. Bundy up to that time, but in the course of getting ready to go overseas I did meet Bill Bundy and got the distinct impression that he was the head of our group to go overseas. It was, therefore, caught me a bit by surprise that we had a Captain Mortimer Stewart who was in our group and the senior man, but it was still Bill Bundy, the guy who sort of gave the orders--albeit done carefully enough so that he didn't go too counter to the standard military--the idea of rank here and so forth because Mortimer H. Stewart was indeed the senior man in our group. He was going over to head one of the detachments. I think 6813 or 6811th, perhaps, and Bill Bundy was to head 6813.

FARLEY: Selmer, before you go on when you mentioned Bundy, it reminds me of Vint Hill. When you were at Arlington Hall did you ever have an occasion to go down to Vint Hill for any training or any orientation at all?

NORLAND: I do not believe that I ever visited Vint Hill until after I had come back as a civilian working at Arlington Hall after the war was over. I had heard a lot about Vint Hill, I had met people who had been there but I'm almost 99 percent certain I never went to Vint Hill.

FARLEY: Well, it was probably in the early days. It probably was not even open for business by the time you had gone through.

NORLAND: I'm not sure, but I have a feeling it might have been, but I'm not positive.

FARLEY: Okay, back to Bill Bundy.

NORLAND: We went by--I guess, we reported to Arlington Hall one day. I think it was probably on a Friday and we were sent by train to New York, Fort Hamilton. We had some interesting experiences getting there but nothing too significant, I guess. And as a recall then on--I should back up for a moment--just before leaving, almost as an after thought before leaving Arlington Hall on Friday, all of us officers were issued brand new forty-five pistols. They were still coated with cosmoline and none of us--well, I shouldn't say that--I had never fired a pistol in my life and I'm sure from what I saw later that several of the others never had either. But we were given these pistols to take with us as we left for Fort Hamilton. Somebody at Fort Hamilton discovered very quickly that most, if not all of us, had never fired or qualified on the pistol so they made special arrangements on Saturday morning at Fort Hamilton that we were to have some

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orientation and be given an opportunity to qualify in the pistol. Well I'd had the second series of typhoid, typhus, and tetanus shots, so that my left arm was throbbing like sin when I--I always reacted very violently to that. So after a session in one of the barracks there at Fort Hamilton where we were shown how to strip and clean and reassemble the forty-five then early after lunch we went out into the pistol firing range and my arm was really throbbing by that time. But fortunately again, they'd had to make special arrangements, so I guess it was just one poor officer there who was stuck with the ten of us firing the pistol--without any help. And I was, again, I was shooting the pistol quite accurately so after I had fired perhaps only half of the requisite number of rounds our instructor asked me if I would stop firing and see what I could do to make it possible for Bill Bijur to hit the target. (laughter) So it was a tremendous relief to my throbbing arm that I was able to stop firing and work with Bill Bijur. I don't know that I accomplished a great deal, but at least we got through the session. And then, I believe it was probably about Tuesday that we were informed that we were going to sail on that day. And, again, I had no idea-Bill Bundy may have known, but I had no idea just how we were going to go but we were taken down to a pier and we were dumped out in front of a ship that turned out to be the Cunard Liner, the Aquatania. So this was a large ship that was rather old but it was

large and it was fast enough so that went without convoy straight across and as I recall, we got on there and spent the night before the thing departed. I don't remember too much about the actual departure, but this is the first time again that I had ever been on any body of water larger than a small lake in Iowa. So I had more than a few apprehensions about how my stomach would react and that sort of thing. But to my great relief and perhaps aided by the fact that the sea was almost as smooth as glass on the entire crossing, I had no difficulty whatsoever. Since this was a Cunard Liner it was a pretty ship. The food left a lot to be desired from my Middle Western taste. I never have got to the point where I could do much with kidney and particularly at breakfast. So I found that some of the breakfasts were rather unappetizing. But the ship was, of course, very crowded and there were, of the ten officers, as I recall there was one captain, three first lieutenants and then I believe, that would leave either six--there were two or three first lieutenants and six or seven second lieutenants. And all of second lieutenants were wound up in one large--well, not terribly large, but one room with a bunch of doubledeck bunks in there. We were, there were a number of other officers, second lieutenants with us in there. We had some interesting discussions on the crossing going over.

FARLEY: Did you pull any duties at all--like watch officers or checking any EMs in their barracks, in their quarters?

NORLAND: I don't remember any duty of that sort. It's almost incomprehensible

that we didn't have something like that, but I just don't recall anything on that crossing going over. Had books and did a lot of reading and I remember the first time we'd met some of the enlisted men. Here was Howard Porter who was a classical scholar of Roman, Latin and Greek who's sitting out on the deck when he had an opportunity with his Latin or Greek or whatever it was. There was Art Lewis who is well known in the Agency here. I don't remember what he was reading but I met him for the very first time in the course of that crossing over the ocean. And everything went very nicely. There was one day when there was some, one of the guns mounted on the deck of the ship was fired. I'm not sure whether that was just for training practice for the gun crew. I suspect it probably was but it made some of us a little bit apprehensive, anyway. We certainly were well aware of the submarine threat. We didn't know at that time just how much the authorities knew about the presence of German submarines and all of that sort of thing. So we didn't have that advantage of feeling quite as secure as we might otherwise have been. But we...the crossing was fast--I don't remember five or six days, and we arrived in let's see, Grenagh I think just outside of Glasgow in Scotland. That's where we--that was our...landing.

FARLEY: Not Liverpool?

NORLAND: No, no, it was in Scotland. And we got in there. We perhaps had already anchored by the time it was dark in the morning. I'm not sure about that, but anyway I recall being on the ship the entire day while they were unloading just hundreds and hundreds of military personnel and we must have been one of the very last groups to get off. When it came time for us to go, just the twenty of us, we were very small. So we were taken off. It was evening and since this was August and England was on double summer time, it was still very light by 11 p.m. and I remember we were taken off the boat eventually and were taken then and put on a train headed south. I didn't know at the time, but I found out in a few hours that our destination was Litchfield, the famous Colonel Killian "repple depple" ((replacement depot)) in Litchfield, England. So we got in there and were assigned--again, it seems to me, that we were assigned quarters in the building where there were just perhaps the ten officers of us together. I must be wrong about that. I don't think there was that much space but that's my only recollection. It seems to me that we had a space like that where we were pretty much by ourselves. The enlisted men there had a pretty rough time because Litchfield was notorious for making life as miserable as could be. We got along with relatively little difficulty. That was my--you asked about did we have any duties of any kind. That was my first recollection

of having anything of that sort. We were all brought in to spend several hours censoring mail. I think--I found frequently people didn't quite know what to do with us, you know, signal intelligence and all of that kind of business. So that we wound up censoring the mail, but fortunately we didn't have to stay there very long. I remember going into the town of Litchfield one evening. A whole bunch of us went in there. This was the birthplace of the famous Doctor Johnson. So we were kind of interested in seeing Johnson's birthplace and looking at our, really, our first English town, of course. It was just the matter of a few days there. I guess Bill Bundy must have been in contact with the headquarters in London because then we did get orders to move out of there. I would say we probably weren't there more than three or four days would be my guess now. Then we proceeded to London.

FARLEY: You didn't have orders directly from Arlington Hall to Littlebrick Hill or to Bletchley Park?

NORLAND: Oh no, no, not to Littlebrick Hill or to Bletchley Park. We were assigned to the Headquarters in London. Then, I guess, after we arrived in London then, there probably was some time for...obviously clearances would of had to have been taken care of long before we were sent out to there, but there would probably some additional negotiation It doesn't seem too reasonable either, but we were in London for about two weeks, my recollection, during which time we were given orientation there at the SIS Headquarters

in London. Their headquarters was on--the name eludes me now, but they had a separate building.

FARLEY: This is the U.S. Army SIS or was it a joint operation?

NORLAND: It was the U.S. Army SIS. It was a separate building Northeast of Oddelly Street and Oxford Street.

FARLEY: Would you remember any names? Who was the CO or the Exec?

NORLAND: Well the senior man there was Colonel Bicher. John Geddes was the person we dealt with. I think he might have been the Exec at that time. I don't recall who the deputy was. Among the three operations people who gave us lectures and we actually spent some time working with them were: Paul Neff, John Maxborum and Duncan McIntyre in my recollection were the three people. There were some others we met but those three names were the ones, and then there was Colonel Bicher was the CO of the outfit and John Geddes was another person we had. I think he was the Exec. I'm not positive about that. We were billeted in sort of a transient officers' mess on South Oddelly Street. There were some rooms up on the top floor and I think you were not supposed to be there more than two or three or four days or whatever it was, but during all of the time we were there--of course, we had no idea how long we were going to be there and every morning we would go down there and sort of sign in again for the following day and I managed to stay there the entire time. Some of us had spent some time going out looking for quarters in case we had to move, but I recall that we

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did spend the entire time there. I remember one, after lunch--we didn't always have our days very well filled--among the other officers was Lieutenant Paul Whittaker who was, had been a Professor of German at the University of Kentucky who had been called in and had been given a direct commission as a second lieutenant and I met him for the very first time. He and I, I guess, were the--he and I and First Lieutenant Alex Pringle were the only ones who had had some German background. Incidentally, Alex Pringle had also been in the same additive recovery section, book breaking, depth-reading section at Arlington Hall. I'd forgotten about Alex. But we did a lot of sightseeing. We walked around London during the time we were there and I remember one day after lunch--we'd had lunch in the Officers' mess there on South Oddelly Street and we were sort of reclining around our rooms and all of the sudden somebody yelled out, "Attench, hut" and we all jumped to our feet and here was General J. C. H. Lee. I think it's General Court House Lee who was the special--the Support Chief for London who was just making an inspection of the officers' mess there and he breezed in and breezed out. I think--I was always hoping that General Lee didn't hear my confused "good morning" as he came in--it was right after lunch. Anyway then, after we'd been there for I would say the better part of ten days, two weeks, we were all at the headquarters, SIS Headquarters, and one day we were called in individually

to see Colonel Bicher. And it was then that Colonel Bicher informed me that I was scheduled to go to Bletchley Park and that I'd be working on something called "emandation." He wanted to know if I knew what "emandation" was, and I told him, "No, I wasn't familiar with that." And he said, "Well, it's sort of correcting German text." And he questioned me at considerable length to find out how much I had known about what we were going to be doing. And I think I was probably very reassuring to him because I knew virtually nothing. He did acknowledge that he had been quite disturbed over what he considered to be a breach of security, that a number of the people there knew too much about where they were going and what they would be doing. But if he had any problems, I think I didn't add to them in that respect. So then the next thing that happened we were put on a train again and by this time, it's just about the very last part of August 1943. We were taken, hauled, to the appropriate railroad station in London and put on a train and we got off at Bletchley in England.

FARLEY: Did you have an MOS? Did they assign you an MOS by then as a cryptanalyst or traffic, or linguist?

NORLAND: I'm almost positive that my MOS was 9604. That certainly was the MOS that I had during the--all of my work there at Bletchley and I think I had it by that time. I really couldn't tell you exactly when I became aware of the fact that I had a 9604 MOS, but that was it.

FARLEY: Did Colonel Bicher mention the Enigma or the problem or go into any detail about Ultra material?

NORLAND: He certainly didn't say, I'm sure he didn't say anything about Ultra as such. In the orientation that I indicated before that we'd had from Neff, Maxborum and McIntyre, there'd been considerable talk about and some demonstrations of the double Playfair system that was being used and various other strip systems and so forth. I just don't remember now specifically anything about Enigma, although it might have been, it might well have been mentioned. I can't really sort that out from what happened later. We got into Bletchley and I'm a little vague on this now, but I guess we were taken in there. I don't recall even just how many of us wound up there at Bletchley. There were one or two people, officers, of our ten officers one of them at least one or two of them didn't go to Bletchley. Now, of course, Captain Stewart went to 6811, the Intercept Site, and it's possible that some of the other people went there, too. One or two of the officers I just lost track of and never really encountered again. But we got to Bletchley and I don't remember anything about what happened except we were put on a bus and were taken to Bedford where all of the officers probably, most if not all of the enlisted men, were also assigned billets in British homes. And I remember I was dropped off at a house and told, "This is where you're staying," and it was a home where the owner was a British, I guess unmarried,

I always called her an old maid--I don't mean to do her an injustice. Her name was [redacted] as I recall. So that was my home for the next few months. Bedford was twenty, twenty-five miles, as I recall, away from Bletchley so that we traveled to and from work every morning by train. There was a--the railroad station in Bedford was down in the southern part of the town so it must have been at least a mile walk I had from my billet down to the railroad station, then get on the train and travel to Bletchley. It was a fairly short walk from the Bletchley railroad station to the place where we worked. I don't recall anything more of that day, but Lieutenant Paul Whittaker and I were assigned to Hut 3 in Bletchley Park. I think Alex, I know Alex Pringle was in Hut 3 for most of his assignment there, but it doesn't seem to me that he was assigned there initially. I could be wrong about that but my recollection is that there was Lieutenant Paul Whittaker and myself who were the two who were taken around. I remember we were taken very quickly into meet the head of Hut 3 at that time Wing Commander Eric Jones--later a group captain and then still later Sir Eric Jones, the Director of GCHQ. And we met Jones' deputy, a civilian named Bill Marchant. I think his--I believe his real name is probably Herbert Marchant or something like that but he was always known as Bill Marchant. He was the Foreign Office man and the civilian to the Royal Air Force Wing Commander who was the head of

Hut 3. I recall going to lunch, my first introduction to lunch at Bletchley. We first went to the beer hut and this was literally a building which had a lot of beer kegs in there and the standard practice to go over to the beer hut to have a pint or a half pint or whatever it was before going to eat. They had a sort of--not a sort of--a cafeteria in the--as I recall I believe it was in the headquarters building, but I could be wrong about that--it might have been a separate building--I'm a little vague on those things right now. But I remember going with, with Group Captain Jones, Bill Marchant and we were joined by a fairly attractive young lady. I wasn't quite sure where she fit into the picture, but I later discovered that was Bill Marchant's wife Diana; she joined us for lunch too. So we were introduced to the beer hut and had lunch at the cafeteria.

FARLEY: Was that a restricted area? I mean was it barbed wire or was it a restricted area?

NORLAND: I don't recall barbed wire, but it was a restricted area. You had to go through gatehouses where, without the proper pass--it was not a picture pass as I recall--just a pass that had some kind of a number or whatever it was or a distinctive color--I don't really remember anything about it except you did have to show your pass to get into the gatehouse. It was nothing like, as formal as Arlington Hall had been, or as NSA is now, but you definitely had to present credentials to get in. There was a gatehouse.

Later on, as I recall, I think there was kind of back way that you could exit from, to go to the railroad station--much closer. My recollection is that you had to go into the front entrance when you were coming to work in the morning because that's where the guard was set up. There were a lot of people who--there was some parking in--of course, there were buses, transports of various kinds, military vehicles, and some of the higher ranking people were able to drive their cars in there, although a surprising number of them didn't have automobiles either. There was a main entrance to the gatehouse and that's where you normally went in. A lot of people went in by bicycle, for example. But you definitely had to present a pass to get into the place. Once you were in then I'm not aware of anything--once you were inside the gate, I'm not aware of anything that would prevent you--at least no building that I ever had to occasion to go into did I have to show any additional credentials. Once you were on the place you just walked wherever you wanted to. Of course, in those days all of us Americans were required to wear uniforms so that we were immediately obvious at all times in the uniform. You were going to ask...?

FARLEY: Was there a complex there of temporary huts or was it a converted race course or a park or do you remember what was there before the huts were built?

NORLAND: I think this had been a school at one time. The headquarters building, a red brick building--you probably have seen pictures on most of the books that have come out on Ultra recently--it was an old building. It had been there for a long time. And then during the time when the British installation which became known as Bletchley Park moved out there, they had had a number of temporary buildings, quonset huts, and so forth, which I think is where you get the designators--hut number so-and-so. By the time, and there were a number of those temporary buildings still left on the place when I arrived. Remember this had been going on quite awhile by the time we arrived there in August of 1943. But the building in which Hut 3--it was still called a hut even though it was no longer a temporary building--it was a brick structure--essentially brick faced at least and a fairly permanent type structure of my recollection--more like cinderblock on the inside. And that was true, I think, of Hut 6, as well. There were some other temporary buildings, but they retained these old designators from the time when they had been temporary buildings so it was always kept known as Hut 3, Hut 6. It was just a very useful way of referring to them without...Hut 3, of course, was the linguistic unit for handling the, doing the scanning, the translations, and intelligence reports came out of Hut 3. Hut 6 of course, the cryptanalytic part of it. Later on there was something called Hut 8 and there were also some block

designators in there. The Navy problem was worked in a separate area. There were U.S. Naval officers who were assigned there during all or part of the time I was at Bletchley, but they never worked in the same building that we did. After the introductory lunch and incidentally a night or two later Paul Whittaker and I were invited out to the Marchants' home for dinner and that was the first itme I had ever been in a thatched roof home. The Marchants had rented a house with a thatched roof out in the country some distance. My recollection is that we went in Marchant's car quite a number of miles. He had a very nice picturesque place and they were very friendly and hospitable--the whole group, my recollection is, when we arrived there. From the operational point of view, as I indicated, I'm almost positive there was only Paul Whittaker and I who were assigned initially to Hut 3 because all of the orientations going out to the dinner at the Marchants' and so forth, there was just Paul and myself. And, in order--for a period of time--to break us in so we would get our feet on the ground, familiarize ourselves, we had, we were assigned to work on back watches. This might be a good time to describe just a little bit the watch arrangements that Hut 3 had. There were essentially five operational watches, the first line watches. And they went on a rotating schedule. We'll say that on a ten day cycle--so that when you, at the beginning of the

cycle if your operational watch, were, say at the beginning of a cycle, you'd report in for duty at four p.m. in the afternoon. You'd been off, of course, all of the rest of that day. So you'd come in at four p.m. and you'd work then from four p.m. until midnight, four days, the operational watch. Then, after you came off at midnight then on the fourth day, then you didn't report in again until the following midnight. In other words, you had a long changeover there. Then you reported in at midnight for two mid watches--midnight until nine a.m., twice. Then after you finished your last, your second midnight shift, then you had another long layover, an extra eight hours and you came in at work at nine o'clock in the morning and you worked from nine until six and then on your second day shift you worked from nine until four. Then you had in effect, forty-eight hours off. You got off at four p.m.--you got all of the following day off and you didn't go back to work again until four p.m. on the following day. So that, that's the ten day cycle that you had. You had eight working shifts in a ten day period. And that's the way the entire thing worked. You may wonder about--you obviously since you had four evening shifts you had two watches on duty. What they would do is to have one watch with work in the back room because another part of the procedure as I discovered very quickly--when the material came in from, after it was decrypted in Hut 6, had been solved by the appropriate

people, specialists, working on the various keys and then had gone through the, had been given to the girls--they recovered the settings and all that sort of business and they would recover the printout, the text of the messages on tapes, paste them to regular WT paper and send them and they'd wind up in Hut 3. Each watch had someone who was designated as a sorter. In some cases it was the number one of the watch and in other cases it might be the number one didn't care to do this himself and he would assign somebody on his watch to serve as a sorter. The sorter would look through everything as soon as it came in and then he would assign it priorities--one Z, two Z, three Z, four Z and so forth, piles. One Z was the lowest priority. Four Z was the highest. Well, some time after I arrived there it turned out there was too much in four Z so they had to get a five Z as the highest priority and so forth. And the standard routine was that when you were working on an operational watch, if there was anything in the five Z file, then you would do that and take that. If there was nothing there, you'd go to the four Z and you'd go down the priority pile. And in effect, except on rare occasions, you rarely got down below the three Z pile. That meant that you had sort of an accumulation then of the two Z and the one Z, the lower priority material. Well they would be taken off then at the end of the day, four o'clock and be taken to a back room where one of the operational watches working

then when you had two on duty, would work on that lower priority stuff just to keep up with it.

FARLEY: What would determine how something would end up in a one Z or a five Z pile?

NORLAND: Largely the urgency of the information, if it were perishable information. If you got something, for example, we would every day some time in the evening, you would get a message from one of the keys giving the operational orders for reconnaissance flights to be flown off southeast Europe, for example, in the Adriatic Sea the following day. Well as soon as information of that sort would come in, that was perishable information. You want to get out to alert the customers as quickly as possible of where and when German reconnaissance planes would be flying over the area.

FARLEY: It would be the Luftwaffe.

NORLAND: That's right, the Luftwaffe. Then if you had, obviously if you had ground operations, if you had the orders for an attack in a certain area on one of the military keys or if you had--among our most productive sources of information were these Air Force liaison officers with the Army--the so called FLeeVOs who had their own keys. And they would frequently indicate, "Now here's what the Army plans to do today so that we need to have air support to cover such and such. So any time you got any operations for the coming day where time was of urgency, we needed

to make some preparations or counteractions or something of that sort. That determined the priority.

FARLEY: So that's why it was so thick?

NORLAND: That's right. And back room watches then would work on this material. I've sort of got ahead of myself here--what I started out was--when we first arrived, in order for us to sort of work into the routine of what was happening at Bletchley Park or how they functioned and so forth, they did have a couple of permanent back room watches. They were people who specialized and sometimes there were particular kinds of traffic, railroad traffic where you didn't have anything that was normally urgent but you needed to keep track of.

FARLEY: Let me switch, Selmer.

TAPE TWO
SIDE ONE

NORLAND: They had a couple of permanent back room watches. I remember a man named, an Army Captain Wooten was the head of one of them and a civilian named George Needham, the chief of the other. And these people worked for various reasons. I don't quite know why they were on back room watches--if they preferred it that way or if sometimes there were health reasons or if there were other complications. But we were assigned then to, Paul Whittaker and I, when we first arrived, to work with one of these back room watches for a period of orientation. We had had people...as the whatever operational watch was

on duty, sometimes they'd bring the number one back to talk to us of something--highlights, they gave us a lot of information. They were delighted, of course, to tell us information about some of the things that they had accomplished, the Battle of Britian, and this is where I first encountered this business of the beans and the fabulous Dr. Jones and that sort of thing. And North Africa was still a very interesting point to them with Montgomery, of course, and the Battle of El Alamein and how they used the results of the Ultra to sink Rommel's supply ships bringing fuel and ammunition and all that sort of thing so that we got a very fine introduction into the uses to which they had put the Enigma decrypts and the significance and so forth. Which I found very eye opening and very interesting. They were very forthcoming in every respect in that score. And again, I had indicated earlier that my German wasn't all that great and I must say that after a day or two there in Hut 3 I really had an inferiority complex about my German because these people, the number ones of the watches, and many of the people were on them, were Dons from Oxford and Cambridge, who headed the German departments there, or were professors, full professors, assistant professors in German at Oxford and Cambridge, as well as some of the provincial universities up in Scotland, Yorkshire, and so forth. They had other people who were outstanding German linguists who perhaps had been...had spent many years

overseas. All of these people--I don't think I ever met any of them who had not, during their years before the war, either while they were in university or later or both, had spent summers on the continent, in Germany where they lived in the language, worked in the language and so forth. So they were outstanding in German. I indicated before, my knowledge of grammar was excellent. And I had a--my vocabulary was limited, but ever after I found that I was going overseas, I picked up a military German reader and did a lot of reading in this, and I continued to read at night in my billet after I was assigned to Bletchley. I kept a military reading book, military selections, in my footlocker in the billet I had in Bletchley. I would spend my evening hours reading and trying to increase my vocabulary, but I had never--you're familiar with the standard way of teaching foreign languages up to and even later than World War II, the emphasis was of learning how to read the language, not to speak it. So that I had, I really had no speaking fluency whatsoever. And these people would just speak German back and forth to each other. They really impressed me--not that they were trying to snow me of any sort, but they were obviously outstanding linguists. It was a mixture of civilians and military. As I indicated before, the Navy--there are lots of books about this indicating that very early when Bletchley Park was set up, the Navy had opted to stay out of the joint facility.

It was the Royal Air Force and the Army that combined to form Bletchley Park. The Navy had opted to stay out of it. They had their own installation. They did have a separate facility there at Bletchley so that they could make use, of course, of the cross fertilization of the cryptanalysts and use of the somewhat primitive, by today's standards, machine facilities and that sort of thing. But, we did not have, therefore, we did not have any Royal Navy people assigned to the operational watches. They were a mixture of civilians, Royal Air Force, Army, British Army, some Canadians. I recall, I think there were one or two people with Australian and New Zealand background in Bletchley Park as well. The five, as I recall, the five, the heads of the five watches--one was--I was later assigned to his watch--the head was a man named Jim Hands. He was a civilian, had spent a lot of time as an educator in German--very fine German. There was another civilian, Harold Knight. I've forgotten whether he was from Oxford or Cambridge, but older than some of the others. And the young civilian foreign officer named Bob Marshall who was the next thing to a genius, I guess. Then there was Humphrey Trevelyan, who was either the son or the grandson of the famous historian, Trevelyan, and Humphrey himself stayed in the British Foreign Service and after the war he eventually was ambassador. He was the first British Ambassador to Red China and he was ambassador in Moscow and, I think had

been in Egypt, too. But, anyway that is the kind of person that they had. And the fifth, I just do not remember the name of the man now, the fifth watch senior.

FARLEY: He'd be a senior watch officer type?

NORLAND: Not watch officer, the watch officers were a little different by nomenclature, he was the head of one of the operational watches.

FARLEY: Okay, I'm sorry.

NORLAND: He was a military man. I just don't remember his name right now, perhaps it will come to me later on.

FARLEY: Selmer, what was the ratio of Britishers to Americans on these shifts or watches?

NORLAND: Well, that's fairly easy to indicate because there were the five operational watches and my recollection is that there were probably eight to ten on a watch and there were just two Americans on the five, initially. Later on, as I mentioned before, I think, there was one of our officers who went over on the same first shipment was First Lieutenant Alex Pringle. He later came to Hut 3 and was also assigned on a watch. So that I was on Jim Hands' watch. Paul Whittaker was, I think, on Harold Knight's watch and Alex Pringle who joined us later, was assigned to this fifth watch with a military man whose name eludes me at the moment. Later on, we had augmentation. This was the very last part of August, early September in 1943. Later on we had some augmentation. First lieutenant, I guess probably he wasn't a first lieutenant at that

time, Lieutenant James Lively was sent over from Arlington Hall. Along at the same time was Lieutenant Lou Laptook and, I believe, that at about the same time was Lieutenant Sidney Jaffe. These all came to and were assigned later to work on the operational watches. My recollection is that all three of them spent some time working on these operational watches. I know that Lively and Laptook did, and that Jaffe did, too. Jaffe had a terrible time. He had sinus problems which were aggravated, and allergies and so forth which were made almost unbearable by the British climate. So that he was not in good health for a large part of the time that he was there. And my recollection is that eventually he had to return to Arlington Hall for health reasons. But, initially there were just the two Americans of us who were assigned to the operational watches. I don't recall just how long we spent working in the back room, as I indicated, sort of familiarization and orientation. And then we were assigned to an operational watch. And as I said I was on Jim Hands' watch. On Jim's watch, he was the number one and we worked at a horseshoe table. The number one sat on the inside of the horseshoe, right in the middle, and all of the rest of us were along the outside. To my--I sat, I think, second from the right on outside--to my right was a British Army Lieutenant, Allen Philips--then was my seat--then to my left was Squadron Leader Harry Law-Robertson, a Scotsman--then there was Jeffrey Child,

I'm not quite sure of the relative arrangment--then there was Nigel Gaden, who was the sorter for our watch. He was very sharp on the order of battle and so forth. Nigel Gaden--then we had a Flight Lieutenant Percival, a man who had spent a large amount of time in Singapore and in the Far East. He was on there and I think that's, my recollection, that probably makes up all of our watch. At the same time in with the watch--as soon as something came in--brought in by girls--these were WAFs, Women's Air Force--they would bring the material in as it came from having been decrypted and typed up. It would be brought in front of the sorter. In our watch this was Nigel Gaden. He would go through it and assign it to piles. If there was something that he recognized from looking at it very quickly was extremely urgent, he would say to somebody, "Will you stop what you're doing, Jeffrey, and do this one? This is higher priority than anything we've got." Or he would give it to me or one of the others, you know. If he knew that it was something that--we tended to develop sort of specialities fairly quickly--be it more familiar with particular orders of battle. Some people didn't...order of battle, didn't really register. In all immodesty I would say that order of battle was one of my strong points so that I quickly learned and remembered and people on my watch would ask me, "Do we know that such and such a division is here?" And I could usually tell them, "Yes, it is, or no, that's

a new location or something." Anyway, in addition, then afer we had done our translations, then we would pass it in to the number one and in our case the number one did do a review, a check, of every tanslation. In some watches where the number one served as the sorter, he would designate somebody else to do the checking, see? But Jim Hands did the checking on our watch and when he finished with that he put his initials--we would always initial when we put it in front of him and then he would initial. And then it would go then to--depending on if it was an Air Force, German Air Force Luftwaffe, or the Army, or if we had something involving Navy. Most of the stuff that we worked on, of course, was German Air Force and German Army. He would give it to one of the military advisors and they were representatives then from the Army and from the Air Force and we always had at least one Navy officer assigned to, as an advisor to each shift because we would get a lot of things, of course, that would be of interest to the Navy. His job was to look at it from a Navy point of view, notify the Navy authorities if there was something that they ought to know. For example, Army or Air Force operations with impact on the Navy. And they would then, these advisors, would go back in the file rooms and research on units, or field post numbers or personalities or anything else that was needed. They would then write up a gist of what was required, they thought, to send to the War Office or to the Air

Ministry or to the Foreign Office or whichever one of the customers, and then, of course, later on after the opening up of the second front in Europe, they'd have all of the various commands, and so forth. Once they would finish, with it they'd decide that it should go to such and such distribution. They would give it a priority and then they'd put it through a window to the duty officer and he would give a final review. He was also an outstanding German linguist. He'd look at the thing--not with a fine tooth comb, but just to make sure that everything made sense from the language point of view. He'd review the priorities that were assigned to it and so forth. So he's the man who would finally then--his chop made it ready to leave Bletchley Park and be turned over to the girls to put on the wire. If it were a high enough priority, it'd be sent out electrically to the various consumers or if it were lower priority it might go by dispatch the following day or something of that sort. And you may have heard--one of the most, the latest books on Ultra, Ultra In The West by Ralph Bennett, who was one of those duty officers behind that little glass door in Hut 3. So he did have a marvelous vantage point during the eight hours that he was on duty of seeing everything that came out of there, of course.

FARLEY: Selmer, when the material came in, was it enciphered or had it been decrypted?

NORLAND: By the time we saw it it had been decrypted. The cryptanalysts...I'm sure you have already got or will get a much better breakdown of how that process worked. After the keys were recovered and not only the keys for the day, but the individual settings from the messages, they'd be handed over to a whole bunch of girls on typewriters where they would--these are actually the equivalents of the Enigma machines--they would just work up the settings on them and type in the ciphered text and then plaintext, if everything is going well--the plaintext will come out on tape. They'd paste the tape in strips on sheets of paper and that's the way it would come to us. They, a cover was so understandably and necessarily--our intercept cover was generally excellent so that if we would get an important message that had some corrupt text in it, you'd simply--well, sometimes you might find a letter or a group of several groups missing or there was just a corrupt portion that you couldn't make out, then it was entirely possible, if you had something important enough, you could call up the girls back down there and take your message down to them sometimes--you'd either send it to them or take it to them and if they could find another copy. I think my recollection is we'd get on the telephone and find out if there is a dupe for a particular message. If there was a dupe, then, if the copy we had was bad, we might have them do the entire dupe or if we just lacked a little portion we could either send it down or I remember

on many occasions, taking it down there to one of the girls who would get the dupe out, and try to run that portion to see if that, if we got better copy out of it. Or sometimes if I could suggest what might be the plaintext, she could reverse the process and see if you got some letters reversed in the group, you know, or something of that sort. So that we had access to that kind of improvement, too. Then, we had, in the watch, we had card files that were set up there of terminology and abbreviations. There was a particular--another one of the back room activities was to keep files of that kind, linguistic information, abbreviations, what they stood for, terminologies, specialized terminology. I remember there was a man named Trevor Jones who sort of was the specialist on terminology. And I spent a lot of time consulting Trevor on his files--he had maintained about every conceivable sort of dictionary that was available. He could look up if you had a linguistic problem of that kind. And then, in addition, there was another desk back there of a TA representative so that if you had, say a message that didn't have, perhaps was a cut-in, you didn't know the "to" or "from" or for some reason of that sort, you could check the callsigns against his list or make some telephone calls and identify the sender or the receiver of a particular message which we could then indicate on the translation with the appropriate degree of certainty--A percent, B percent, C percent and that

kind of thing. There were other backroom watches that specialized. There was a Doctor Pinkering who had his own specialty. There was Professor Norman who is mentioned very prominently in Dr. Jones' book. He was the person who, again an outstanding German linguist, who sort of became the specialist for all of the special weapons, the V weapons and all that sort of thing, the rockets and anything that was considered to have possible bearing on the German secret weapons would always be referred to Professor Norman. I had--I'm sort of perhaps getting ahead of myself, but at one time while I was there I would think, probably, I was at Bletchley from the first of September, late August 1943 until early May of 1945 when I left briefly on a TICOM expedition and by the time I came back the war was over. But I would say that in perhaps late '44 or early '45 I was detailed to work for about a month in the backroom with Professor Norman. They would send decrypts back to him of anything that were thought to have some dealing with--he was sort of a specialist on flak and all the beams, the navigational devices that the Germans used and that's how he got into, of course, the B1s and the B2s and I remember it interesting to listen to him. We'd go in in the morning and he would spend some time looking through the materials that either I or the other people working in that special group had prepared for him. He'd look through them and then sooner or later you knew he was going to pick up a telephone and

he'd call the Air Ministry and he'd ask for Dr. Jones and then there'd be a little pause and he'd say, "Shall we scramble?" and he'd push the inverter on the telephone and they'd start talking about the events of the previous night, the previous day, that he had gleaned from the traffic. Dr. Jones, as his book indicates, relied very heavily on the Ultra material and Professor Bimbo Norman, as he always calls him "Bimbo." I never knew he was called "Bimbo" until I read Jones' book. To us he was Professor Norman.

FARLEY: Was that his real name?

NORLAND: No, his name was Fred or Frederick, but apparently his nickname as "Bimbo." It's an odd thing about Bletchley Park. There were some people, most people were known by their first names. There were others like Norman who was always Professor Norman and there was Professor Lucas. And once in a while you'd find somebody who was known as Doctor and I never could really quite figure out, generally, no matter--this was not an indication of your rank necessarily or something. I guess it was just some people didn't feel comfortable on a first name basis. But most of the people there were dealt with on a first name basis. There were a lot of very interesting experiences. The standard routine, as I indicated before, you'd come in and work four evening shifts. When you worked the midnight shift regularly, you'd be quite busy for a couple of hours cleaning up the priority material left over from the

day and the evening watch. Then you'd get a period--this is where we would customarily, I think, generally, take a break to go eat somewhere around perhaps two o'clock in the morning, two, two-thirty, three o'clock. To sort of spread it out obviously we kept the watch manned to some extent all of the time. And then you'd sort of wait for that flurry of activity when they'd start breaking the keys. Midnight German time would be--well, let's see, I guess England was in double summer time--I don't remember about time, but anyway the keys changed some time during, around midnight, I guess German time, and then you'd always have to expect there would be a little while before they'd get enough traffic in for the cryptanalysts to break the keys. And then some of the keys would almost always would break early. Then there'd be telephone call that such and such a key is broken and we'd get all geared up for that stuff to come through, you know. And, in many cases, depending on the kinds of keys, the green key was the one for, well,--I don't remember--there's no point in going into all of these. They had colors and flowers, daffodil, green, red, pink and various other things, all represented a particular Air Force or Army unit or a liaison net of some kind. And they were obviously priorities from the crypt point of view, too. Just because something had a high priority wouldn't necessarily mean that you had enough traffic to break it, but usually there was and when the first keys would break them, they

would decrypt them again on the basis of the knowledge that they had built up on certain links were apt to give you certain kinds of information. So there'd be a flurry of activity as soon as the keys would start breaking, on getting out the operational stuff because they would be operational orders for the day coming up, maybe orders where you're sending out reconnaissance planes or for where supply ships are going to go and there's going to be an attack on such and such a sector and these are your departure points, coordinates, and that kind of thing, you know, artillery, bombing attacks. So that this stuff would all be looked at. And usually then, starting with my recollection of, three, four o'clock, five o'clock in the morning and then sort of with increasing rapidity, additional keys would be broken and more stuff would keep coming in and by the time we finished that midnight watch at nine o'clock, you were generally very busy again. And the day watch would continue on that sort of level pretty much of the day.

FARLEY: Selmer, can you give me and idea of a timespan from time of receipt of raw material in Bletchley to the issuance of a report or a Tac Rep or a summary?

NORLAND: I don't suppose that I can, because you see, we never saw the material when it, until it had been decrypted, but I know that in many cases--well, there was always the originator, the time of origin on the message so that you could see and in many cases, we'd be working on messages within an hour or less of the time of origin.

If it's a key that had been broken, you see, you always had some time lag. You had to develop a certain amount of traffic in order to get enough to break out the material for the day, unless you happened to get one where the pattern was very well known and they needed surprisingly little traffic in some cases to get it out. But there were cases where frequently customers of Bletchley Park would get decrypted messages, you'd know before the intended recipients would ever get them. And when something came in to Bletchley, and the key had already been recovered, it was very rapid to get it in and process, logged, and then would be decrypted and sent on up and would be reviewed very soon after coming in--depending on if you've got a whole stack of things brought to the sorter at one time, if it happens to be at the bottom of the stack it's going to take a few mintues to get through it, but if--as soon as the sorter recognized the urgency. And again, depending on the length of the message and number of garbles in it, if it were a relatively straightforward, operational message, short one, it could be just the matter of minutes from the time it got into Hut 3 until it had already gone, in some cases, where it's a very clear cut operational order, there's not much that the military or air advisors needed to do to it, it could go out in a five Z signal, very quickly. The messages out to the customers who are also in the Z category, five Z meaning highest priority, four Z, three Z and so

forth. I guess, I don't remember particularly, any record-setting period of time, but I do know that processing could be very quick and frequently we have very good reason to know that we had got something. Particularly if...we were always amused when we saw a service message by somebody saying, going back saying we were unable to break out such and such a message and there'd be lots of chuckles at Bletchley Park. Not only had they been able to break it out, but it had gone to customers long ago and the original recipient was still having trouble with it. But that kind of thing, of course, happened every now and then.

FARLEY: Selmer, was the material classified TOP SECRET ULTRA across the board?

NORLAND: Yes.

FARLEY: Everything?

NORLAND: Yes.

FARLEY: So there were no SECRET CODEWORD material?

NORLAND: That's right, our everyday bread and butter was, I guess, I wonder if when we, when I first arrived there if they weren't still calling it MOST SECRET, which was the British. They later adopted TOP SECRET then as, I guess jointly with the U.S., It is a funny thing that you mention classificiations. The ULTRA material, the MOST SECRET, TOP SECRET was our bread and butter. No one paid any attention, but I remember one time in 1945 when they were organizing these TICOM teams.

Those of us who had been selected to participate in a TICOM team got a sealed envelope which was addressed by name and classified CONFIDENTIAL. And that attracted all sorts of attention--everybody--I still remember the one I got. Nigel Gaden, whom I indicated earlier, had been the number two of our watch. Jim Hands was transferred out for some other duties for a while so he was the acting of number one for a period of months. He was serving as a number one and he served as his own sorter. And I remember when that came in. He held up this envelope and said, "CONFIDENTIAL" and passed it over to me and said, "I'm not sure whether I should even touch it." But it was very odd, the ULTRA TOP SECRET and MOST SECRET was what we handled everything in, and CONFIDENTIAL is what received special attention because there was so little of it. As I indicated before, it was an absolutely fascinating kind of work and we'd get involved with something that was particularly difficult and important and--as the case where one person--you know how it is--you get into a rut--you're thinking along a certain line and trying to force something and sometimes it's a help just to ask somebody else who may not know anything more about the subject, in fact may not even have the background that you've got, but he'll look at it without preconceived notion about something, and gee, it just opens up. I remember this happened on a number of occasions. Nigel Gaden, I would say, was the best, the outstanding person I ever worked

with on the Hut 3 watch. He was very fast. His German was outstanding. I told you he served as a sorter so he had an outstanding memory for order of battle and the details and so forth. And I remember he'd been working one time for, I think, it must have been hours, on a very long Hitler message. "Der Fuehrer hat..." "The Fuehrer has directed"--and it would be a long rambling message and it's from an area where we didn't have as much intercept cover so that we didn't have duplicates to improve the text on and there were many corrupt portions. And I remember he asked me one time--it must have been in desperation--"Can you see anything on this line?" I took a look at it and I said, "That looks like "Klar tee rounk(?) up there." And he grabbed it away from me and he said, "That's exactly what it is." And he had been trying to work something else in here and there were just a few things that looked like "Klar tee rounk(?)" to me and he'd been, had another thought he'd been trying to work and from then on he just sort of breathed. But that's an illustration of the kind of thing that would happen every once in a while.

FARLEY: Just looked right beyond it.

NORLAND: That's right. They had--if you've read any of the books written about Ultra, the Winterbotham book and some of the others, they, all of these conventions of course, were set in concrete before we Americans ever arrived. They would, I'd say, they were very gracious about not

pointing out to us how long they'd been in the war, too obviously, pointedly, but when you stop to think that we got there in late August, early September 1943 and how long they'd already been in to work out procedures and so forth so that they had a number of conventions. And one that always struck me as being very strange was, they always, they referred to things as source. I guess sort of trying to encourage recipients to think of perhaps what you had here was an agent some place. So that in a number of messages where they were important enough so that it had to be translated word for word--that was, I guess, what we mostly did on the operational, the main watches up in front. In the backrooms you'd do a lot more summarizing where there may be just one bit of information in the message that was new or significant and the rest of it was not particularly important, so that you'd use this word "source" saw so and so and I remember at one time where the only thing important in a message was that it gave the location of the headquarters of one of the German--I don't remember now whether it was a fighter Geschwader or a bomber Geschwader but anyway the convention came out, the message that was sent out was that "source" saw a latrine marked for the use of KG3 personnel only. (laughter)

FARLEY: That's the source.

NORLAND: That's the source, all right, to suggest the idea that somebody had been a spy or an agent had been going through in the French countryside and had seen this latrine.

FARLEY: Put a sign on it. Selmer, do you ever remember any incidence of friction between the British and the Americans or anything that indicated that they might have been up tight about anything?

NORLAND: You mean there at Hut 3?

FARLEY: Yes.

NORLAND: Only, I suppose, perhaps, one. That's a very good question. As I indicated, there were the two lieutenants, Paul Whittaker, and myself who were assigned to Hut 3 initially and I didn't say at the time. It's probably worth mentioning that all of the British military personnel were officers in Hut 3. Some of them were the O-1s and they went up to as high as Squadron Leader and, I guess, Wing Commander, probably O-5 is about as high as the operational people on the watch were in grade. But, you know, the U.S. has always had a somewhat different philosophy about linguists and so forth. I think the typical Army brass has always felt that there's nothing so great about being a linguist; it just means that whereas he, the Colonel or Major or whatever thinks in English, why the linguist just thinks in German. So that there's no problem, no premium. You just run it through your linguist. I encountered that for years. But part of the plan to augment, to integrate U.S. personnel into Bletchley Park, it was partly to sort of reinforce--they were short of manpower--they had manpower problems, obviously, in Britain generally. The war went on such a long period of

time, so that from their point of view I think they looked at it as getting some additional human resources to add... to attempt to cope with what was probably too much to handle with what they had. In addition, of course, there was the obvious agreement that we're going to be getting into, preparation for Overlord and we need to integrate U.S. personnel in here because we're going to have U.S. customers. It's not going to be exclusively a British bill from that time on. So you had these two, these two reasons. And I'd say that there might have been some skepticism when Paul and I first arrived, probably since I couldn't speak German very well. I had great difficulty in speaking German of any extent. Paul was more fluent from that point of view. Then the next group--I don't know whether it was 0192B or a subsequent augmentation group--there were a number of enlisted personnel who had linguist specialties, who were to come there. And they were actually sent from Arlington Hall and arrived and this presented some serious problems to the British because they had no non-officer linguists working in Hut 3 at all. The only enlisted personnel they had were the girls who brought stuff in and some of the other, the typists and clerical personnel, generally. So that presented a bit of a problem. And I remember one time, one of the backroom watches said that, "You Americans must not have a very high regard for intelligence, because you just send OR's over here "OR" meaning "other rank." And I

tried to defend the U.S. policy as well as I could, pointing out what the circumstances were in a somewhat different concept and so forth. But anyway, to make a long story short, these additional personnel, some of whom I think were quite good German linguists, never did get assigned to Hut 3. They were given jobs in Hut 6 where many of them worked in watches working on certain keys and so forth and did a very fine job where they could combine their German with some crypt work in key recovery and recovering settings and cribbing and that sort of thing. So that was, I'd say, the only--now I'm sure they might well have had their own reservations, but they were, might have been expressed officially in some channels but as far as I was concerned working with them, there was never any problem of that sort at all. They were very open. Again, if there was anything that they had, of course, it was exclusively theirs and it wouldn't have been put out there among us, but we had--we felt we had free and ready access to anything and anybody in the whole organization from the very first day we came in.

SIDE TWO

TAPE TWO

FARLEY: There really were no incidents that you remember about the British and the Americans fighting at all?

NORLAND: No, none whatsoever. I know that there was difficulty at various levels outside, but as far as Bletchley Park was

concerned, if there was any, I certainly never saw it. I indicated there was this little bit of displeasure of what they thought perhaps was a low regard the U.S. military had for linguists and for intelligence, by extension the intelligence. And I must say that I think that criticism of highly justified for various reasons. Not, I don't mean to run down these people, the enlisted personnel that were sent over there from Arlington Hall--I think they were outstanding, but they should have been officers. But it's just the U.S. way of doing things. They think differently about it. We had, I guess I've indicated before, that sometimes during the...perhaps, late on the evening shift or the early part of the midnight shift, not a great deal to do and that's when people would tend to sit back and put their feet up on the horseshoe table and just sort of talk and there were always a lot of backroom supporting personnel, too. Each of the--I haven't mentioned that you had extensive Air Force file room, an Army file room and the Navy had support facilities back there, of maintaining files, too. There wasn't room for them all in this one large room where the Hut 3 main watch was located. And you had specialty files of various sorts and linguistic files and so forth, so there were a lot of people working in the rooms and they had a tendency--oh, I probably should have mentioned, too, that on each watch somebody was sort of fell heir to the job of preparing the coffee. I remember on our watch it was Army Captain

Jeffrey Child, a single man who was a bit of an old woman--if you'll pardon the expression--but he sort of puttered around and he loved the job of getting the coffee every morning and he'd come around and announce, "The coffee is ready," and so forth. But then when you had these slack periods, that's when you'd sit around and talk about all kinds of things and that's where I found it interesting. I remember one evening we got on the subject of central heating and how the British, one or two of the people there felt that the typical American home must be like an oven with the central heating, so terribly hot and all of that kind of thing. That's where you try to educate them a little bit--some of their notions are perhaps a little astray. But they were all fascinating people as I've indicated before, with varied backgrounds. Some of them had been in business, in industry, traveling all around the world. They were linguists; they were scholars, writers and you name it. It was just an absolutely fascinating group. I don't think you--I'm reminded of--you probably have read Al Friendly's article, "Station X," where he quoted the apocryphal story of Winston Churchill on his first visit to Bletchley Park, he's alleged to have told the director, "When I sent you out here I told you to leave no stone unturned and, my God, I didn't know you were going to take me so literally." There were some real weirdos, people, psychopaths of all kinds out there, but outstanding

people. And it was a fascinating kind of experience. I remember--it's the kind of job where you really were, literally--at least I was, I'm sorry--whether this is an indication of my own idiosyncrasies, I hadn't thought of that--but I was really literally sorry when my ten-day cycle came to an end and I had to leave for a period of time. I would frequently spend my forty-eight hours off--I'd go home at four--we'd be off duty at four p.m.--I'd go home to Little Brickhill. I've never told you about how after being billeted in Bedford for a long time and traveling back and forth by train--I'm digressing here--we would eventually, when Little Brickhill was opened up, I guess actually I moved in closer--at the time I was assigned to an operational watch where I had to work on the midnight shift. Then I was assigned to a hotel, Woburn-Sands, not too far away where they had regular British transport bus to travel between Bletchley and the Swan Hotel in Woburn-Sands. And there one of my roommates incidentally was George Vergine, Sergeant George Vergine, who had been hospitalized and I remember, when I was at the Swan Hotel--I guess probably when I was moving in there--and the proprietor of the Swan Hotel, an Englishman, asked me if I would mind sharing a room with an "OR". And I said I didn't mind at all, but maybe you'd better ask the OR and that's the first time I'd ever met George Vergine. Then after Little Brickhill was opened up, then we moved, I moved out of the Swan Hotel. I went to

Little Brickhill and we traveled back and forth then by army two-and-a-half ton truck, personnel carrier.

FARLEY: Were the BOQs out there?

NORLAND: There was, this was an old manor house and one wing was the officers' wing. It was really all just sort of one continuous wandering rambling sort of building. The officers' wing was in one end and then you had, I guess the first sergeant's room was in that same wing and maybe the officers' quarters were mostly up on the second floor above that. Down below you would have a day room and then the little PX facilities we had and the supply room and that kind of thing and then further down, the dining room where all of us ate and the enlisted quarters, and the rest of it. That was within two or three miles, I guess, of Bletchley and sometimes in nice weather we would ride our bicycles to and from Bletchley. I did that sometimes even when I was at the Woburn-Sands Hotel, as I recall when the weather was nice. I'd just ride my bicycle into work. Among the, another person I... whose name had slipped my mind--came over to Bletchley as an augmentation later on was Major Charles Donahue. I believe, if I remember correctly he'd been on the faculty at Fordham University and his German was quite good. He came over for a period of months. This was probably at or shortly after D-Day when we were gearing up. So he was with us for a period of months. And I recall one time after we finished the four o'clock day shift at

Bletchley, Donahue was off duty at that time, too, and we went home and we got our bicycles and set out and bicycled from Bletchley Park to Cambridge, which was probably fifty miles or thereabouts. We got in there at Cambridge about ten p.m., as I recall. It was still light. We went to a Red Cross club there and got assigned rooms and I remember the room where I was assigned a little later that--maybe 11 p.m., midnight or so--there were three or four other people came into the room to their beds. We were talking and I found out these were U.S. fighter pilots who'd been over Berlin in Mustangs earlier that day. I found that sort of a fascinating--I think I felt particularly strongly about since I was working on material, reading the effects of the bomber and fighter missions and so forth and to talk to and actually see some of the people who had been over Berlin that day. It was a little bit of luck with a strange feeling.

FARLEY: It made you want to tell them something, but you couldn't.

NORLAND: I wish, I wish I could have told them various things, that's right, but I couldn't. There were a lot of--it's funny, you know, you can remember literally...I can still, some of the text or messages come back to memory. One of the times, there were obviously, the British people and the Americans, too, would occasionally take leave. I don't recall that I ever took any leave during the time I was assigned there at Bletchley Park. Except I did mention earlier that I was detailed for a period of--I don't

remember whether it was two weeks or four weeks, to work with Professor Norman on his special project. But the British people--there were health problems in some cases and some of them had like family emergency leave. One time I remember I was asked one time if I would go to one of the other watches--not the one that I was regularly assigned to--to serve as the sorter because their sorter was away on leave. I felt highly flattered about that, having felt very justifiably humble about my German at the outset. It was a reflection, I think, of the fact that order of battle came easy for me and I was fairly quickly recognized as an authority on order of battle. And so as I said, for a period of two weeks or so I was transferred to another watch to serve as their sorter because their sorter was away on leave or sickness or something of that sort. To make it even, I suppose in some ways, better, it was the watch on which Paul Wittaker was working. He was a very fine linguist but he just didn't have the feel or the knack for order of battle and that kind of information was of more interest to me, I guess, and came easier. So that, that was an interesting experience to serve as the sorter to look at that stuff. And I remember--that must have been in late 1944, because I remember that one midnight shift that they brought in some material and to me as the sorter, and I picked up a message and I can still remember the text of it. It says, "Fuer alle SS ein heissen, funk stille". "For all SS units,

radio silence." It was a system without an address or "to" or "from" designator, internal. And we knew that the SS units had been taken out of the front lines and were sort of back for rest and refit about this time and this was December 1944. You know, when the battle, when the Bulge attack took place. I don't remember exactly the date of this message. I think I've seen reference to it in various places, but it was a week or so perhaps, before the German attack in the Ardennes which became famous as the "Battle of the Bulge." That particular message I'm happy to say that I recognized as a potentially significant message and I took it immediately to the Army, British Army Advisor who was on duty. This was Major Allen Pemberton. He shared my feeling and, of course, a message as simple as that doesn't take long to translate. And it was translated and there wasn't much you could say. The text stood for itself and it went to the duty officer and was sent out in a five Z message to all of the customers within minutes after it reached my position there as a sorter on that watch. So that's one of the things that I guess I'll always remember. And there were a lot of--I remember two--one evening, this goes back to sort of earlier after the Normandy landing in early June. Incidentally Frank Rowlett was visiting Bletchley Park at that time, and I recall, on D-Day, Frank Rowlett, Alex Pringle and I had left, had been back at Little Brickhill and we walked up the hill, perhaps

two hundred yards to a pub up there and had a half pint or a pint or something like that and we were sort of killing time until nine p.m.--that's when the BBC news came on. And I remember we were waiting impatiently and we were talking among ourselves--"do you suppose that tonight since this was D-Day the landing took place, do you suppose they'll have the news earlier." Well, we knew the answer to that. The BBC would be right on the stroke at nine o'clock and not only would it be nine o'clock, they'd go through all of these chimes of Big Ben just the way they always do. There's nothing to break that routine. So we made sure to get back to the officers' day room in time to hear the BBC news that night. I still remember Frank Rowlett being there on that particular day. Then after the landing took place, there were some very, of course, tense periods and the weather was bad, marginal for the landing and you had the period when the personnel seemed to be sort of pinned down there, you know, and half were near the beaches for a long period of time. There was this long interminable sort of build up of when are we going to do something? I remember, again, being on the midnight shift one night--this would have been perhaps July--and I picked up a message to work on, and I still remember the text that I worked, too. It said, "Panzer spitzen Rennes" and I tore up and got to the map--it says, enemy (this was a German message) "Enemy tank spearheads are in the vicinity of Rennes." So I tore to

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a map of France and found out that the city in Rennes is, I guess, maybe about half way across the Britanny Peninsula. That was our tipoff. Now probably the duty officer and everybody else knew that Patton was going to attack to break out of the beachhead, you know. And that was the beginning--that was the first day of Patton's attack out of that Normandy bridgehead. This was exciting to find that they had gone by the early hours in the morning, they had gone halfway across the Britanny Peninsula. And the German commander of the Fortress of Cherbourg, the Americans landed up near Cherbourg and they sort of succeeded in pinching off the Cherbourg Peninsula so that the German commander there was surrounded. And, of course, Hitler, through Field Marshal Rommel, who was the CNC West for that time for the Germans, kept telling him to hold out to the last. We'll try to drive the Americans back and so forth. But his name was von Schlieben and I remember one time communications were obviously limited and we saw a message that read as follows, "Wie lage, frage? Rommel", "What's the situation? Rommel." That's the whole text of the message. And I remember Nigel Gaden was on duty at the time and he was thinking it's such a marvelous message. And he thought of all sorts of good replies and the best one he could think of was, "Aus gorebein, schleiben." "All gone to hell." But anyway, I think that's little things like that that are sort of fascinating. Unfortunately, I remember some mistakes,

too, or potential mistakes. I guess there's one that still haunts me a little bit, at the time when well along in the war and the Germans were being harrassed heavily from the west and there was a message to the German troop commander in the northern part of the western front--that would have been up in Holland--to attack the next day. And, let's see, the message was kind of corrupt and I remember taking it down to have a dupe run and so forth and we got it all worked out to the basis that it was pretty clear the reason, an attack, a German attack was going to be delayed and the reason was that the "Ausgang bases...had been nacht something verschulden" "the jumping off point" or the "starting point" or something like that had been sort of pushed off and there was a six letter word in there and it was garbled in such a way that--I should say right now that the correct word was norden (to the north). Our starting off point--the allies have been moving so quickly, pushed farther north. And I guess I amended it so that it turned out to be and now I'm even confused to whether I had made just the opposite. I think I had it for morgen instead of norden. See there are only two letters in there and I think in one case one of the--whatever word was the right word, neither letter the "or" and the "en" were correct but in the incorrect version one of the letters happened to garble to that form. That's what got me. I took it to Trevor Jones, I mentioned earlier was the language expert, and he sort of figured out that this

probably means that they're not going to have the prerequisites...what they need to launch the attack until tomorrow morning. Well actually, when Nigel Gaden came back in the next day he looked at that message and something, his sixth sense, told him that's not right and he went off and did some work with it and he came back and it was not postponed until tomorrow. It was postponed because the starting points had been shoved off to the north. Well, he prepared a correction. But the duty officer said, "There's no point in sending that out. The attack never came off. There's no point in sending it out. We were wrong. There's no point in letting--no effect--nothing happened." Well that didn't make me feel any better, but it's the kind of an illustration of the sort of thing you can get into and I'm sure there isn't--I hope there's not a linguist who hasn't been involved in that kind of problem occasionally.

FARLEY: Do you want to continue? We had to cut this short because of the time. You had to leave and I had to leave. So I thought that today, which is the second of June, we ought to pick up pretty much where you were the last time. You were discussing examples of messages that you translated. Are there any more outstanding examples that you would like to mention?

NORLAND: Right now I'm a little vague on just which ones we did mention but I suspect that I'm sure that I called attention to those that I remembered that we handled correctly and

there was one the other way. That's probably the bulk of it. A tremendous amount of stuff, of course, and I just don't remember. I think we got the essence of that. Probably, it might be worth mentioning a little bit--we've been talking about Enigma during the last few months before the war came to an end. We also had stuff the British called "fish" which was the breakout, the successful decryption of German printer messages, Hellschreiber, I guess. I remember the British referred to the Tunny system and there were two or three other kinds of fish, Briem perhaps. I might not have that name correct but we had some of that, too. The conventions for handling it were somewhat different. The text was very similar to that we encountered in the Enigma. I remember one of the principle differences was that for the first time in my life I had to become familiar to--for some reason or other I think the British way of the GCHQ Bletchley Park way of decrypting this didn't convert numbers, so that you had the QWERTYUIOP. It's the first time I ever became accustomed to that.

FARLEY: What was the word?

NORLAND: QWERTYUIOP, the top of the line of the typewriter. And you just, if you got a Q that's a 1 and if you got a P it's a 0. There was some sort of convention; upper case switched to numbers and lower case back down to letters again. So that was a little different convention in handling. There were some very long and, I think, meaty

messages that were passed in that system but our bread and butter was essentially the Enigma. It continued right on up to the time that I left.

FARLEY: What type systems were the "Fish" systems? Were they Army, Navy, or across the board, diplomatic?

NORLAND: I guess they were Army and Air Force. I doubt that we would have seen Navy but I'm not sure about that. I couldn't actually swear to that now. My recollection would be Army and Air Force, but I could easily be wrong.

FARLEY: Were they considered a lower level system than the Enigma?

NORLAND: No, they were also pretty high level material.

FARLEY: But they were a machine system?

NORLAND: That's right. They were enciphered printer kind of communication. We, I guess, I perhaps have mentioned earlier that in some of the systems we would fairly frequently find references to Hitler messages. It would never be one in which Hitler was the sender, but if you had a message on a high level link it might be the OKW, the high command of the armed forces who would pass along messages which would typically start, "Der Fuehrer has befehuen". "The Fuehrer has commanded." Then you'd find the text of whatever order was being sent out to the subordinate commands. In the latter stages of the war, I think, it turned out frequently that his orders were always the enemy was "Unmittel bar" which means sort of, without question, "to destroy the enemy." And also you're never to retreat and all that kind of thing. And

a good many of those messages, I think, we realized before they ever reached their destination had been overtaken by events because the Allies were driving the Germans back so rapidly.

FARLEY: This was in late '44?

NORLAND: This would have been in, yes, that would have been--well, the summer of '44 and then you had sort of a breathing spell where you came--first of all Patton's tanks ran out of fuel so there was a lull there and then the battlefront stabilized for a period of time. And of course you have the attack in the Ardennes, the so-called "Battle of the Bulge" in December and then once that was turned around from sometime January-February 1945, then it was a pretty steady march on up then to the end. I was involved in the TICOM expeditions so I wasn't actually at Bletchley Park when the war ended. It's funny; I think I mentioned to you before that everything we handled was TOP SECRET ULTRA and when you get a communication on something of lesser significance it would stand out like a sore thumb because it would be to so and so, CONFIDENTIAL. I mean that was what really attracted attention. And I recall my first, the first time I had ever heard about TICOM I guess, I received such a communication. I remember Nigel Gaden held it up and said, "This must be something very sensitive: it's confidential." So he handed it to me and here was a notification that I had been selected as a member of one of the TICOM teams. This must have been

March-April, perhaps of 1945, as the war seemed to be winding down and making arrangements for that. I mentioned earlier my only experience in tiring--my first experience in firing a '45 was at Fort Hamilton on our way overseas. In preparation for the TICOM expedition there were a lot of us who found it a little bit difficult to see just how we were going to be doing this but evidentally the authorities were sufficiently concerned so those of us who were on TICOM expeditions again were taken out for some practice in firing the '45. I think we went to some old sand pit or something like that around Bletchley and did some firing.

FARLEY: Did any of the other members out of Bletchley Hall get nominated for the TICOM team?

NORLAND: Oh yes, there were quite a number of people from Bletchley, both American and British, who were on the TICOM teams. There were a number of the TICOM teams. I don't recall the exact number, but there certainly were three or four or perhaps even more. The particular team that I was on, I eventually got orders to leave. The war ended on the 8th of May so it would have been perhaps four or five days prior to that, that whoever of us who were on that team. I don't recall exactly. The makeup I would say there were probably eight-ten people from Bletchley. The head of the team was Wing Commander Oscar Oeser who was a Bletchleyite British. I think actually he was from either Australia or New Zealand originally but had been at

Bletchley during the war. He was the nominal head of our team. We first went to Croydon Airport in London and there we flew by an RAF Dakota to Paris. This is the first time I had ever flown. And I remember among the members of the team, there was one of the G-2 representatives stationed at London, who was Major Lou Stone. And he must have been about six feet six inches tall and was an enormous man. So when he showed up at the airport he had...somebody had rigged him out with a backpack, various kinds of equipment and a helmet and he really looked like an impressive soldier, I must say. We got to Paris, landed at Le Bourget if I recall correctly, and were met there by some representatives from Colonel Bicher's outfit... by this time had moved out onto the Continent and there were some headquarters in Paris. Most of our dealings were with Colonel Eric Bearce who is familiar to a lot of people since that time--a number of tours at NSA and its predecessors. I think he was a Lieutenant Colonel at the time and I'm not sure whether he met the plane or at least arrangements were made for us to be picked up and we spent a night--perhaps two nights--in Paris and an intervening day getting the rest of the material necessary. Transportation was provided for us there, and I recall early on Sunday morning which would have been, my guess now the 6th of May,--I'd have to check a calendar to confirm that--we left Paris, headed east and we drove all day and we wound up at Heidelberg late at night and

Colonel Bearce was there. Now I guess it's possible that he and Commander Oeser had traveled by jeep separately. We, the bulk of us rode in an army two-and-a-half-ton personnel carrier. We spent the night at Heidelberg and we always had difficulty in getting people to provide us with accomodations even though we had the most incredible variety of passes--everyone of us was issued a pass--no picture on it--but it was, well I remember there was the French Army, the 6th Army Group and the British Forces. We had passes that authorized us to travel into any Allied zone in the whole Western Front. So it was the most impressive set of credentials, I must say. There were U.S. Navy representatives, too, as I recall on the TICOM team I was on, because one of them was Commander Howard Campaigne, who also had a long and illustrious NSA career. One reason I remember Howie Campaigne particularly is we stopped for lunch someplace along the road--we had "C ration" cans and he was changing into field uniform--it didn't look quite as formal as the blues that he'd always been wearing at Bletchley, I guess--so he asked me if I would help him put his insignia on and I remember putting his oak leaf on upside down. This was taken care of when somebody called his attention to it later. After spending a night in Heidelberg, then we traveled on the next day to--wound up in Augsburg, Germany. I think we got in there on the night of the seventh and we spent the entire day of VE day--the 8th of May in Augsburg. And I remember

my particular job--we had the locations of some German military installations there in Augsburg and I was asked to make arrangements--somebody provided me with a GI who had an acetylene torch and there was a vault in the basement of Luftwaffe barracks that had been locked up and somebody thought there was a reasonable possibility there might be some interesting material in there. So it was my job to arrange to get this fellow with the cutting equipment to work on the door to that vault. And again I remember being torrid; I had read all sorts of warnings about beware of boobytrapped vaults and so--at the same time, I didn't feel it was quite proper of me to sort of lurk back a safe distance away when the fellow was just about to cut through the door. So I was some place relatively nearby when he cut through and I think we both heaved a sigh of relief when nothing happened, and we didn't find any particularly valuable material either. I spent that entire day I remember going around from one headquarters to another. We were provided with a list and the driver knew how to get there--opening safes and vaults of one kind or another looking for information.

FARLEY: Selmer, did you have a mission? Was there a mission specified on your orders?

NORLAND: Yes, I'm sure there was and I just don't remember.

FARLEY: Probably generalized.

NORLAND: Fairly general, yes. There were, obviously, there were people who had, whose business it was to figure out

reasonable and logical places to go to, and I'm sure certain installations that I didn't happen to know. I'm sure Oscar Oeser had orders and directions of that kind. On the evening of VE day, someplace in there, we had spent a night in Munich, too--I don't recall. Perhaps we went to Munich that day. And then the next place we went was Kaufbeuren which I later found out was one of the notorious camps for executing large numbers of people and in Kaufbeuren we were...I think there was the rear headquarters of 6th Army Group. We had a terrible time again with somebody, some major on General Debber's staff who was very jealous of the supplies--particularly the mess facilities and so forth. We didn't have trouble finding a place to stay too often, but we had a devil of a time in persuading somebody to let us eat in their facility. I don't know why. Oh, another one of my duties, as I guess a relatively junior member of the TICOM Team--I was a first lieutenant--one of my duties seemed to be to serve as communicator. We were provided with one-time pads and we had a couple of British communicators with us, who with the radio set they could set up and on some kind of a schedule communicate back with Bletchley Park. And I discovered very rapidly that Oscar Oeser was one of the verbose people I had ever encountered. He would always every evening, would draft a report on what had happened during the day and he would go on for hours it would appear with these one-time pads. So that was part of my job to encipher these and then to decipher them when we got communications coming from Bletchley.

FARLEY: Selmer, your list of installations to hit, was there a common denominator there? Were they message centers, signal centers, crypt centers?

NORLAND: They tended to be message centers, signal centers, headquarters that might have files of that sort of thing. I remember we did come across fairly extensive files of the German Foreign Office. These were kind of reserves of documents. Most of the documents that we found were quite old. They were obviously there as some kind of a repository. It was interesting to me, I found a number of copies of documents of which the original had been signed by Hitler--appointing members of his cabinet and things of that sort. So we had some fairly impressive official documents. After being in Kaufbeuren for two or three days, then we went to Munich and from Munich we went to Bertschsgaden and we were set up there in a very nice facility--a private home that had been requisitioned for us to use in Bertschsgaden and it was a delightful place. We took advantage of the opportunities that we had to go prospect the area. This was very soon after the war was over so that there had not been--the Americans had gone through obviously, but there hadn't been, they hadn't been there in large numbers. And I remember one of the first days we were there going to visit Hitler's chalet which had been burned out so there was nothing but a shell there, but I found myself a souvenir, which I still have some place in my possessions, I think. Then a

day or two later--I don't recall exactly when--some of us we had some free time so we decided we were going to climb the mountain to the Eagle's Nest overlooking the town of Bertschsgaden. And we got to a certain point and found the MPs had blocked it off to vehicular traffic and we assumed to pedestrian traffic as well. We didn't take any chances so, the MPs were located right at the corner of one of the hairpins with a double back so some hundred yards or so before we got to the MP's barricade we just climbed up the side of the mountain and bypassed them and then went on our way--walked on up to the top of the mountain. As I recall, it took us two or three hours--that's a considerable distance and a steep climb and I remember--this was before the middle of May--someplace around the middle of May--and we walked through snowdrifts that were ten-twelve feet high on either side at certain points. A path had been cleared there. We got all of the way up to the top then we had lunch. Again we had taken some food with us and we sat and ate K rations as I recall in that magnificent semi-circular room on the end of the Eagle's Nest so we could look out over the Austrian and Bavarian Alps--just a magnificent sunny day.

FARLEY: Let me switch this tape.

TAPE THREE

SIDE ONE

NORLAND: I don't recall again, there were--there must have been half a dozen of us I guess who made the climb up the mountain. One of them I remember specifically was a British Flight Lieutenant George Sayers who had been with us at Bletchley. He was one of the people that provided TA assistance when we needed it. If we had messages without address or signature he'd give us TA identifications. After we had done all of the looking around in the Eagle's Nest that we wanted to, Allied troops--I believe I'd been told French troops--had gotten there before, so wine cellars had been very effectively raided, but the place was still--looked to be in excellent condition. Anyway, we had finished and were walking down. There was an elevator there but we chose to walk around a slightly longer way down to a level parking area perhaps a hundred feet below the level of the Eagle's Nest itself. And just as we got down there on our way back here we met Oscar Oeser and his U.S.--I think it was--Lieutenant Colonel Bearce in a jeep. They had--I thought, perhaps imagination that they looked a bit crestfallen when they saw we'd beat them to the Eagle's Nest, but they were very generous at least to the extent of providing the jeep to drive us back down the mountain while they went up and inspected the Eagle's Nest.

FARLEY: They had no trouble getting through the MPs?

NORLAND: No, they obviously had some kind of passes that would get them through.

FARLEY: Selmer, how successful was the TICOM expedition?

NORLAND: I would say quite successful. I perhaps got a better idea of the success of the TICOM project generally after I'd come back to work at ASA as a civilian, because then I saw, the subsequent years--saw the long list of materials that had been picked up. Now our TICOM Team, we spent then some days in the Bertschsgaden area. I remember going to Salzburg and we were broken up into various groups that would go to investigate a number of different facilities and eventually a British Major Rushworth and I were assigned the job--I should back up a little bit--somebody again had identified a group--have I mentioned before the German intercept group that we located? Well, somebody had been looking through preliminary PW interrogation reports, and I don't now know whether this was done back in the UK or just exactly what our source was; but we were informed that there was a group of PWs in a PW enclosure not far from Bertschgaden--I think it was perhaps not far from Rosenheim which is a town perhaps half way between Bertschsgaden and Munich, if I remember correctly, and these people had been a German intercept team. Negotiations had been made to release this group of intercept operators and my recollection is there must have been perhaps twenty of them--I'm not sure.

I could be--twenty plus or minus--ten--there could have been as many as thirty--I'm not exactly positive. But these intercept operators had been working at a military facility which had been taken over by the U.S. quartermasters by this time. So early one morning, as I recall, these people were released from their PW enclosure and were brought back to the site that they had occupied. They were provided with shovels and the necessary equipment and they went into the courtyard. This Germany military installation was sort of like a quadrangle with a large court inside. So they went out to a place which was right outside the door from the building or the portion of the building that they had occupied and dug and in the course of the next six hours or so dug up three or four truck loads' worth of equipment--intercept radios and all that sort of thing. And I still remember these GIs walking around the quartermaster with their tongues literally were dropping out as they saw, "My God, look at all of these radios that could have liberated." They thought they were just ordinary radios. Well, they worked all day there as I recall, worked very hard, very industriously. And by the end of the day, I think, they had dug up all of their equipment. They had very carefully protected it from moisture and everything else. It was sealed off so that this equipment looked to be in perfect condition. I don't really remember whether they set it up again or did enough testing to make sure that it was

working properly. But I do recall that that night they stayed there. I don't recall whether they had sleeping bags, perhaps not. But they stayed right there in the building which they had occupied as an intercept detachment. And Major Rushworth and I were the two Allies, a British Major and a U.S. First Lieutenant stayed there with them. Well, it turned out later I had all sorts of trepidations and apprehensions about the likelihood of somebody, after I fell asleep, coming and taking my uniform and, you know, making his escape. I didn't know at the time--I later found out--that I guess nothing would have prevented them from staying with their equipment. They were that dedicated. The next morning some Allied authority had provided five German trucks. These were I think diesel trucks or the equivalent. They had a cab and an open cargo bed behind. All of that equipment was loaded up on the first four trucks and the fifth truck had no equipment as I recall and that was the one that the personnel were going to ride in. So reasonably early in the morning we had a five truck convoy set up. Major Rushworth was riding in the cab of the number one truck. I was riding in the cab of the number five truck with a German driver and an assistant driver. They were very rigid on protocol. These were provided and you had to have a driver and an assistant driver. Our destination was the PW camp at Augsburg. I very rapidly discovered that my truck was the slowest of the lot because I had a sinking feeling

as the other four trucks gradually got farther and farther away and the first thing I knew in a relatively short time, as far as I was concerned I was in a single one truck convoy. I had my '45 sitting there in the cab with the two drivers and the other personnel. I don't remember, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five of them in the rear of the truck. They were unarmed, of course. The autobahn had been...every place there had been an overpass on the autobahn that had been destroyed so we had to make a lot of detours that took us through small German villages. And I recall that around lunchtime driving through one of these typical small towns in that part of Germany and it seemed to me that there were almost scores of women who dashed out of their houses and brought food, sandwiches, and drink to these poor German soldiers on the truck behind. I felt even more isolated and alone.

FARLEY: They didn't offer you any food?

NORLAND: Didn't offer me any food. But it was with great relief that some time in the afternoon we arrived at our destination. Fortunately the driver knew exactly where he was to go and he would not be deterred in any way. We wound up there and we made connections again with the other four trucks of the convoy. The personnel then were all put inside the PW camp there at Augsburg, properly registered and so forth. And obviously arrangements had been made or were being made then for them to be released subsequently, but it took a while for all of the red tape

to go through. For a period then of, it seems to me in recollection it must have been at least a week to ten days, Major Rushworth and I were there in Augsbburg by ourselves. We were sort of babysitting these people. We'd go out there to the camp periodically to talk to them, to reassure them that necessary action was underway and so forth. And I remember spending a fair amount of time reading in libraries. It must have been in a military sort of installation, I guess, like as our dayroom in U.S. Army, you had a reading room, a library with various things and I wound up with a copy of Hitler's Mein Kampf and some very nice publications, histories, of their successes during the war against Poland, for example. It had been written up in nice spectacular propaganda kinds of publications. So I had a very easy and relaxing time there until everything was in readiness when again we got these--there were fewer--I don't recall--I wasn't by myself at this time but the next stop was to take these German intercept personnel to the Allied facility in Nurenberg. And by this time some of the principle German war crimes personnel had already been assembed there and I remember as we took these PWs into the main jail or the principal point here for turning them over the MPs I suppose were the proper authorities to take care of them, the PWs. Somebody offered to let me take a look at one of the notorious criminals. So he took me to a cell and I looked though the peep hole and there I saw the

notorious Julius Stroesser sitting in isolation in his cage. He's the only one that I saw. Eventually these people--you know, I'm little bit vague right now--but after we got back to Paris then my next move was to go up to another PW enclosure in Northeastern France in a small town named Revin. It was quite close to the Belgium border. I must have been there about a good week or ten days, too, with very little to do. We had a British communicator there with a radio set so we could communicate with Paris, the headquarters in Paris, and with BP when--we didn't have very much to say it was in response to communications that we had from them. But eventually BP sent out a British captain to do some interrogating of a couple of these people who were there at the PW camp in Revin and I sat in on the interrogation, but I don't recall if we got anything spectacular out of it and eventually then I was called back to Paris and returned to England going back to Little Brickhill to spend the remaining weeks before I left. It was early May when we began on that TICOM expedition and my guess is that it was some time in July when I got back to England.

FARLEY: Did you find out what success the German intercept organizations were having with U.S. ciphers and codes?

NORLAND: These particular ones had been working intercepting Russian traffic, particularly the Baudot printer material. So I didn't find anything from the group that I was involved with, any success that they might have had against U.S. or British.

FARLEY: Selmer, you mentioned captured equipments. Did you recognize any of the equipments? Could there have been an Enigma among them, U.S. radios, anything of that type?

NORLAND: There was a considerable amount of equipment. I'm sorry I just don't remember specifically. I don't believe we encountered an Enigma machine. I do remember, I think the first time I had ever seen a wire tape recorder we found someplace in Bavaria on this TICOM expedition. There were a number, our team was subdivided and there were several members of the team, British and American, it was a wholly integrated British and American operation and some members of our team--I indicated we stayed pretty much in Berchtesgaden and then I went off with Major Rushworth to Augsburg and then eventually I wound up at Revin. Other members of the team split off and got into Czechoslovakia I remember. And I do know, again I didn't have any personal involvement, but I think that Oliver Kirby was on a team that wound up in Flensburg, the northern part of Germany. That's about all I remember at this stage of the TICOM expeditions.

FARLEY: Selmer, the equipments...were they tagged for delivery to Bletchley Park or were they picked up by the Americans or the British? Do you have any idea what happened to them after you saw them?

NORLAND: The equipment that was dug up?

FARLEY: Yes.

NORLAND: This was all shipped back to England and I don't know whether--what your classification limit here--but...

FARLEY: Anything.

NORLAND: It was--I'm 99% certain that it was set up back in England and at least for the time being to confirm that it was operating successfully and so forth but I don't know how long it continued to be operating and I think part of that equipment eventually--I remember after I got back to Bletchley and our headquarters in Little Brickhill, there were several trucks, again these were different German trucks--but as I recall they were German trucks. We had some of our U.S. personnel there and spent several days, several hours each day, driving around the British countryside familiarizing themselves with these trucks. And they set out on an expedition. I wonder if Lieutenant Bob Carroll wasn't an escort officer, but some of this equipment wound up back at Arlington Hall. I saw those trucks again many months later back at Arlington Hall.

FARLEY: Did you ever see the famous communication train the Germans reportedly had?

NORLAND: No, I never did.

FARLEY: I don't know anything about that other than the whole train supposedly was disassembled and brought back to Arlington Hall in '46 or '45.

NORLAND: Yes, I'm sorry I never did see that.

FARLEY: Selmer, anything else before we could bounce back to Bletchley Park and talk about the "bombes"?

NORLAND: No, I think that's about--I've exhausted my knowledge on the TICOM operations.

FARLEY: It sounds like a tremendously successful operation as compared with the Far East operation. They didn't do very well.

Do you think you were--that the Germans were aware that the teams would come in and strip the operations, find out everything that they could in the way of documents and equipments?

NORLAND: I suppose they probably would if they'd given any thought to this, they certainly would have expected it, but I didn't find anything--my own limited experience we had nothing but 100% cooperation. These people were--I found a lot of that in Germany right at the end of the war. Most German people that I encountered seemed to be very friendly to the Americans, but they were deathly afraid of the Russians. And more than a few of them indicated that the Germans and Americans really had to stick together to guard against the Russians. They were the real threat as far as the Germans. They were terrified of the Russian menace.

FARLEY: Even in those days?

NORLAND: Yes, I'd say right after the end of the war, very much so.

FARLEY: What was the German attitude toward the French and the British troops?

NORLAND: I saw--we traveled through part of the French zone briefly and I didn't really have any basis for judging, I'd say.

The British I would have to categorize the attitude that I saw pretty much the same the British as for the Americans. When we had our British-American TICOM Teams, cooperation was fine and I didn't see any evidence--I think even in those days the area that we were in was largely the U.S. zone so that it was the U.S. who had access to the food and all of the other materiel that the Germans were very short of. So from that point of view I'd say that you almost automatically had the realization that they knew which side their bread was buttered on if it came to any question between the two. But other than that I didn't see any evidence of discrimination.

FARLEY: Good. Selmer, shall we get back to the "bombes?" Earlier I asked you whether you had ever seen or operated any of the bombe equipment at Bletchley Park?

NORLAND: I never operated any of that equipment at all. Everything had been--all of the machine work had been taken care of by the time I saw any of the material and my closest approach to the machine room is I think I indicated earlier was, in case of a garble, if we had some suggestions we could go down to the area, the typing room, where the Bletchley Enigmas were sitting there grinding out the German plaintext. We could go down there with some ideas which they would try, they would try encrypting them and then see if encrypting the word would indicate a good Morse garble or something like that on the text and we could sometimes improve the validity of the questionable

passage by trying a technique like that. But other than that I--some of our people were involved with the bombes. I guess Walter Jacobs, whom you know, came over on TDY in 1944 and spent a number of months over there, and I believe that he came over there with some U.S. equipment that was sent over to augment the machine facilities at Bletchley Park. And I met--I remember having, I guess, the one and only time I met Gordon Welshman who was one of the British leading personalities, under the Director, of course, and planning the assault on the Enigma machine and directing much of the success. I met him in connection with a mutual friend one time and it was sort of interesting to hear him talk about the cryptanalysis of the German Enigma. And he had obviously considerable amount of machine background that I didn't, so that I had very little contact with that. A number of our people did, but if you were to talk to Arthur Levinson, if he's been interviewed, I'd suspect that he could give you a lot more on that than I could.

FARLEY: Selmer, you mentioned the visit of Jacobs and some of the people. Was there a free flow of personnel from Arlington Hall to Bletchley and the reverse, British troops back to Arlington Hall?

NORLAND: I'm not aware; I assume there must have been some Bletchley personnel who went to Arlington Hall, too. Although I don't know about that personally. There might have been much more occasion for Bletchley people to go to

Arlington Hall if they were working on the Japanese problem than the German. Although there may well have been some of that, too. But, yes there were a number of relatively senior Arlington Hall people who came over there. I've already mentioned to you that Lieutenant Colonel Frank Rowlett was there on VE day. Dale Marston was over on TDY for a fairly extended period. Major John Seaman was there on TDY and we had some augmentation. I think I mentioned earlier Dr. Sidney Jaffe was there for a while and actually working in Hut 3. Those people who came and worked in Hut 3 were the ones, of course, I would have most occasion to become familiar with. There was a Captain Vogel. I think dated back to World War I military career who was over there, to the best of my knowledge, working on the weather problem. He came there for a period of months. There was a Major Edgerton and there were I'm sure a number of--Frank Lewis came over there on TDY as a civilian, the only--off the top of my head--the only civilian I can recall that came there. Most of these people, Seaman, Marston, Rowlett, were either at upper levels of Bletchley Park or over there specifically working in different areas. They were not there primarily for Hut 3. It might be worth just a mention or two, that I was of course there part of the Army Signal Intelligence Service, as were all of us and Major, later Lieutenant Colonel Bundy's group. There was also there during a good part of the time--I guess probably Colonel Telford Taylor

was already there at the time we arrived there as the official G-2 Military Intelligence Department contingent. And that got to be a fairly sizable group, too, before the war ended. I've mentioned that--I think I gave you the names of the Arlington Hall people working in Hut 3 and I mentioned, I'm sure, that a part of the process once a message had been decrypted, translated, checked, then it would go to one of the military advisors. And as time went on some of the American personnel from Colonel Taylor's element would function as the Army or Air Force advisors in that group too. So there were a number of those that came too. In addition we had a fair number of people in anticipation of D Day. There was a fair number of U.S. military personnel who came to Bletchley for periods varying in length from perhaps a few days to perhaps in some cases, a few weeks, of general orientation, familiarization with the product so when they went out to the various operational commands and served as recipients of material, they'd have a better idea of the background and how it could best be used, the particular strength and weaknesses of any of the material. Among those who came through there for a period of time was Major Alfred Friendly, who I think was Managing Editor of the Washington Post for a considerable period of time. I met him for the first time there at Bletchley. And quite a number of the others would come through for varying periods of time and we'd get a chance to meet

them and later on hear that they were out at various Army Intelligence Staffs.

FARLEY: Selmer, did you have any other association with other allied organizations, possibly the British or the U.S. Navy other than within Bletchley Park?

NORLAND: No, it was all at Bletchley. I think I did indicate that in the British contingent--I call them British--you would have a number of Canadian and Australian people but no other contacts outside of that.

FARLEY: Did you have any close relationship with any star rank or flag rank or VIP type individuals other than those that came from Arlington Hall?

NORLAND: No, I guess I didn't.

FARLEY: Like Churchill?

NORLAND: No, unfortunately Churchill had been out at Bletchley. We did have some high ranking consumers that would come through periodically. I remember Brigadier Williams, Montgomery's Chief of Staff for Intelligence, visited Bletchley Park while I was there. But these people pretty generally were brought in by the head of Hut 3 and were shown something. They would probably talk to a Watch Chief, but we would just continue our work and be aware of their presence but didn't have any contact with them. There was a certain amount of bringing them in, people of that kind, for two reasons I guess. One so that they would have an opportunity to deliver personally the appreciation of their commanders for the intelligence

service they'd got and also to serve as a little education for them and the nature of the material, its reliability and things of that sort to impress upon them the fact that there was really a big, solid, substantial professional organization back there producing this material. It just didn't come in off a teleprinter out of the blue as it were. So there was some of that but there were a number of high ranking generals who did visit Bletchley during the war but I didn't see them. I think they rarely got out of the Headquarters Building.

FARLEY: Selmer, did you know Winterbotham? Did you know Winterbotham?

NORLAND: No, I never did. Winterbotham was not at Bletchley. He operated out of London. Before, if you read his book you'll find that he talks about the organization that became Bletchley Park before it actually moved out to Bletchley Park. And he had contact with it there, but of course, again he was primarily a customer of the operation. And then I guess he did have some general responsibilities for setting up the distribution system. But he was primarily interested in Air Force material as a customer. I think I mentioned the last time we talked about Doctor Jones, Doctor R. V. Jones. I find this still one of the most fascinating little episodes. I have a very high regard for Doctor R. V. Jones and I read his book with great interest. He emphasizes there the high regard he had for Ultra and the material, information, that he got through Ultra.

FARLEY: Selmer, were you involved at all in any sensitive operations or TDY for any unusual duties other that your TICOM bit?

NORLAND: No, that was the extent of it. When I--after the war was over and after I got back to England from my TICOM expedition then I stayed there until I suppose September or October when I was transferred to the London Headquarters. Lieutenant Colonel Roy Johnson was there in London and I worked there for a number of weeks and then I was transferred to the Detachment D Headquarters at Russelsheim in Germany. It's about halfway between Frankfurt and Wiesbaden in Germany. That was the headquarters at that time with ASA. Well, the headquarters was in Frankfurt with Colonel Cook, but the main part of the element was out at Russelsheim with Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Hiser as deputy, but the resident chief of the facility there. And I remember there was a staff car in London they wanted transferred to Germany at the same time so that when I went, an enlisted man and I were assigned to take the staff car to Germany. So we drove the staff car to Southhampton, waited there a day or two and got it on the Liberty ship across to Le Harre and then set off on a very nice drive across the northern part of France. I could pick the route pretty much the way I wanted to with maps, so I made sure I went through some of the sightseeing areas and we eventually wound up then in Russelsheim in Germany. That was in, I think, early November of 1945.

FARLEY: Isn't there a beautiful castle right on the side of a mountain there near Russelsheim? I recall it's in the grape area isn't it?

NORLAND: Not near Russelsheim.

FARLEY: No, isn't it?

NORLAND: I don't believe. Then while I was at Russelsheim by this time practically all of the officers had been transferred back. They had the battle stars, you see, each battle star got you an extra five points so that their point totals would come up and some of us who didn't have the battle stars and who were single as I was, wound up staying there. So I remember--gee, I was billeting officer, mess officer, message center officer, code room officer, interrogation officer, and God, everything you could think of.

FARLEY: Grave registration?

NORLAND: That's right, until I finally left to go back to the U.S. as a courier about the middle of February in 1946.

FARLEY: Selmer, did you get a chance to visit any of the U.S. intercept sites like the 6811th, 6812th?

NORLAND: I never visited the 6811th or 6812th. A number of their personnel came to Bletchley and I saw them and met some of them there but I never went to a British site or an American site.

FARLEY: That's funny. I would think it would serve something to have an orientation.

NORLAND: I must admit that I was kept pretty much in isolation from that end of the business.

FARLEY: Selmer, I don't know whether this is an answerable question. Did you receive any assistance or support from outside elements, U.S. or allied, technical, personnel, supplies, captured documents, collateral reports, this type of support?

NORLAND: Well, I'd say all of that, much of that kind of information support arrived at, came into Bletchley Park and became a part of the resources available to personnel who worked there at Bletchley. So to that extent I certainly profited by this but if you are interested in any particular specific thing, I don't have any particulars.

FARLEY: You talked about clearances some time ago. Do you remember signing oaths when you got out or when you came back to the States, an oath in Bletchley Park? It seems to me that the British oaths were a little stronger than the U.S. oaths. Do you remember any of those?

NORLAND: No, I'm sorry I don't. I suppose an odd thing perhaps, not odd but different, the war had not ended when I left there on the TICOM expedition. By the time I got back the war had ended and I didn't work back at Bletchley any more after that. I think I was in there a few times, but my regular job had come to an end there so I was busy with other activities for the remainder of that time. And I just don't recall any, signing any papers other than that.

FARLEY: Any debriefing statements of any type?

NORLAND: I don't, I remember going to see Group Captain Jones prior to my leaving after I'd gotten word that I was going to be transferred to Germany or perhaps even before I went down to London. I went to see Group Captain Jones to express my appreciation for the cooperation that he had always had there during the entire period and to say what an interesting experience it had been.

FARLEY: Selmer, did you or your unit receive a unit citation or a personal citation or award?

NORLAND: We never did to the best of my knowledge get any kind of a unit citation, but I have to admit that I take considerable pride over the fact that I was awarded the MBE, Member of the British Empire, for my wartime service at Bletchley Park. Some time before our installation broke up, most of the U.S. personnel at Little Brickhill, the 6813th, were sent back in one big plane load to Arlington Hall. The Japanese war hadn't come to an end yet, I guess, or if it had come to an end, I think perhaps it had but orders were already cut so that they all flew back to Arlington Hall, and with my German language there wasn't any immediate retread, rapid retread, to Japanese problems. So as I indicated before, I didn't have the points. I wasn't married and Bill Bundy called me in one day and told me that my name had been recommended for the MBE and if and when--I remember my first question was would that get five points for an American decoration? And he said

he wasn't sure but he rather thought so. But I never did hear anything more about that until it must have been late 1946 or perhaps even 1947. I'm not sure when I got the notification. It must have been in 1946 I got notification through the British Embassy that I had been awarded the Member of the British Empire and if I were in the Washington, D.C. area, which I was, they would like to make arrangements for it to be presented by the Ambassador, Lord Inverchapel. And there were three awards that were given: Major Bundy or Lt. Col. Bundy by this time got the Order of the British Empire which is for Field Grade Officers. I got, I was awarded the MBE and a Tech Sargeant Cec Porter was the British Empire Medal.

SIDE TWO

TAPE THREE

FARLEY: What's the equivalent of the British medal to the American medal? Is it a Legion of Merit type?

NORLAND: I don't honestly know what the nearest equivalent--I must admit that while I was in London from 1964 to 1966 I noted with some interest that the GCHQ telephone directory shows MBE after the names of those who had the award. At the time I was there too--I guess this is when the Beatles were awarded the MBE so that some people felt that the general value and prestige of the MBE was degraded a bit by that, but again, I'm very pleased to have it.

I have a citation which has the, I'm sure the facsimile signature of Mary R, the Queen Mother at that time. Apparently it's the Queen Mother or somebody in that situation who's generally responsible for the roles in the MBE and the OBE. I don't honestly know. I do know that every year, I think, on two occasions on New Year's Day, the New Year's Honors List and the occasion of the Queen's official birthday, around the 10th of June, that you have awards of the MBE and the OBE. I'm just very pleased to have it.

FARLEY: Absolutely. Did Roy Johnson get the Legion of Merit, do you know?

NORLAND: He may have gotten it. Oliver Kirby who was at Bletchley during the war got an award of...I'm not sure whether that was the Bronze Medal. I'm a little vague on that--Bronze Star or the Legion of Merit. I'm just not sure. He was awarded that at Arlington Hall sometime after he got back. And I don't know what Roy Johnson got. I suspect that he did. To the best of my knowledge he did not get a British award.

FARLEY: That's something. I think that is something to be proud of. Selmer, this one may hit you cold. What was the most satisfying accomplishment in your career during World War II?

NORLAND: I suppose the most personally gratifying thing that happened to me--it wasn't a specific event. It wasn't an instantaneous kind of thing. I suppose that I found the

most gratifying thing that happened to me was that I was asked to serve as a sorter on one of the main operational Hut 3 watches. And I indicated earlier in this fairly long monologue here that I went there feeling that my German--after all I'd only had a minor in college--that my German left a lot to be desired. And I found this gratifying and reassuring to the fact that at least some of the very expert German linguists there at Bletchley Park felt that my German was good enough, supplemented by what I, in all modesty would say, a superb order of battle knowledge and familiarity that I was entrusted with the responsibility of serving as the initial sorter for a period of time. It was only the matter of a week or two weeks while the regular was on holiday, but nevertheless it was sort of symptomatic. There were a lot of--a number of individual messages that I think I've already mentioned before that highlights of that, but this was probably the most gratifying incident as far as I'm concerned.

FARLEY: Selmer, who else should we interview? Should we interview George Hurley and Kirby?

NORLAND: George Hurley certainly was at Bletchley a very long time. He was in the Hut 6 end. I think you've already interviewed Jim Neilson who was in Hut 6. Oliver Kirby was in Hut 6, Arthur Levenson. A man who's retired now, Jim Leahy. You know Jim?

FARLEY: Yes.

NORLAND: Yes. He was at Bletchley. Art Lewis, Arthur N. Lewis was also a member of that 0192A shipment that I mentioned earlier and worked in Hut 6 during the war.

FARLEY: The other name you mentioned, too. He has an address in D.C. I believe or in Arlington. Who was the other member? Alex Pringle.

NORLAND: Pringle. Oh is that so?

FARLEY: I think he's still in D.C.

NORLAND: I haven't had any contact with him for many years, but he was at Bletchley.

FARLEY: If we could get him out we'd like to talk with him.

NORLAND: He went, I believe, with the State Department some time after the war was over. Tom O'Brien was at--I always have trouble remembering--he was 6811 or 6812, but he was over there for a long time during World War II, if you're interested in getting somebody from there.

FARLEY: Do you people ever have reunions, ever have any get-togethers?

NORLAND: We had had--we had a newsletter for a while a few years after the war was over that George Hurley and I and two or three other people were instrumental in. But it's sort of one of those things I guess that as time went on--it takes a fair amount of doing and we had a couple of newsletters and we had one session as I recall many years ago in Leborrun Park in Arlington--sort of a get-together with some of the people who were in the area. Bill Bundy was in the area at that time.

FARLEY: Did he come, did he join?

NORLAND: Yes, he was there. I've seen him two or three times in more recent years, but the last time, of course, was when he spoke at the Friedman Auditorium. It's been--well, it was before I retired so it must have been a number of years ago now.

FARLEY: How come you didn't come to the luncheon for him? Anybody as close to him as you should have been at that luncheon.

NORLAND: Perhaps because I wasn't invited.

FARLEY: That's a shame. I was there. And all I remember about him was at Vint Hill years ago. See, you having worked with him you should have been in my place. Selmer, what should we classify this?

NORLAND: Oh boy, much of it of course now is declassifed. I got into some of the activities on today's session that I suspect are classified as TSC.

FARLEY: Sensitive at all or just Top Secret Codeword? Will the British object to anything? Not that they'll see it.

NORLAND: If they won't see it, there's a potential of some sensitivity I think on setting up the operation that I mentioned.

FARLEY: Well, let's make it Top Secret Codeword, Sensitive. That's your choice.

NORLAND: All right. But that would be a fairly small portion of it.

FARLEY: Yes. Well we'll just let anybody who's interested pick that out rather than call their attention to saying a certain paragraph because that makes it very obvious.

NORLAND: Okay.

FARLEY: And that way, to me, it gives it a little more protection. If they want to find it, fine. Selmer, is there anything else that you want to put down here? It's been a beautiful interview. I must commend you for your memory, tremendous memory.

NORLAND: Well, thank you very much. I feel more than a few items I wish I could remember more clearly, but I guess you can't remember everything in utmost detail. It's been an interesting opportunity for me to relive a few of these things, too. To be perfectly honest with you, you may have sensed that I didn't show any great enthusiasm for doing this because I really wasn't sure how well I could remember and how relevant my memories would be, but thank you very much.

FARLEY: Well thank you. It's as I say, there are so many things here, so many items that you've discussed that have answered a lot of questions in peoples' minds. I never knew really what went on at Bletchley Park and with a whole run through like this, we can compare it with two or three other interviews and based on the names that you gave us. Hurley promised to come out here. I talked to him in February and he was--he said he needed a period of readjustment and he said when he gets himself straightened out he promises to come out and talk to us.

NORLAND: Yes, he should be a goldmine of information, I think. He had a tremendous amount of contacts as I recall and has

done a much better job of maintaining contacts subsequently than I had. I have all sorts of good intentions but you know where good intentions lead you.

FARLEY: What was his job there? Do you remember? Was he a supervisor or a commanding officer?

NORLAND: I don't remember specifically. I know he was in Hut 6. That's really all that I know about him. I'm sure I have known more but...

FARLEY: Selmer, one thing I've noticed, too, and I'm sure you do too, is that a lot of the people we talk to now are retired colonels, lieutenant colonels, retired 15s, 17s, 19s, 20s and we interrogate them on that basis, but when you think back thirty years ago, some of them were just like you and I, first lieutenants, second lieutenants, PFCs doing a job.

NORLAND: That's right.

FARLEY: And it's hard to recall because we were at a lower level. We weren't at the policy level. We didn't get the "big pictures" as the expression is, but we just did our job and we were told to keep quiet and don't ask, and keep the nose to the grindstone. So that's the trouble we're having in getting a lot of this material out in the open or at least on tape. It's surprising.

Selmer, what we'll do is transcribe this tape and then let you look at it and if you think that there are gaps in there that you can fill in, fine.

NORLAND: Okay.

FARLEY: And let Hank listen to it and once again, thank you very much.

NORLAND: If you have any questions about anything or you think that I could elaborate, feel free to let me know.

FARLEY: Hank was going to sit in on this but he got called away at the last minute. Thank you. I'm glad you came in.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~Positive~~