

Fort Hunt Oral History

P.O. Box 1142

Interview with Angus MacLean Thuermer by Brandon Bies, Sam Swersky, and Vincent Santucci

Middleburg, Virginia

October 25, 2006

INTERVIEWER: It's multidirectional, so it'll pick up everything anyone has said, so

[unintelligible] important one.

[laughter]

ANGUS THUERMER: I think it's rather the reverse, but anyway. Does he know what he's doing down there?

INT: I'm going to try.

AT: Is there a dog down there with you?

INT: [laughs] Not yet. We're all set.

INT: Stand by. Stand by. No, no, no, hold on, Brandon. Something's gone wrong [01:00].

INT: [inaudible]

INT: Okay. Go ahead.

INT: Good? Okay. [unintelligible]

INT: Yeah, start over again.

INT: Yeah, today is October 25th, 2006. We're here in the home with a former Fort Hunt [01:21] veteran Angus MacLean Thuermer in Middleburg, Virginia. It's about 2:00 in the afternoon. I'm Cultural Resource Specialist Brandon Bies with the National Park Service, as well as Sam Swersky, Park Ranger with the George Washington Memorial Parkway; and Vincent Santucci, Chief Ranger at the Parkway. And we're here to speak with Mr. Thuermer about his experiences at Fort Hunt [01:47] and elsewhere during the Second World War [01:50]. So, if you want to go ahead and get started, if you wouldn't mind just telling us a little bit, Mr. Thuermer, about your -- just real briefly, growing up,

your childhood [02:00] and where you were born, when you were born if you'd like to reveal that, and a little bit about -- just a few minutes about growing up.

AT: All right. I was born in Quincy, Illinois, the son of Charles H. Thuermer and Tinadell [phonetic] MacLean Thuermer of Oklahoma. And my father was a chemist and a teacher, and we moved to Chicago [02:27] when I was a small boy, about four years -- four years old. And I was brought up on the south side -- what we called the south side of Chicago [02:40], near the University of Chicago [02:42]. Now, the south side of Chicago today is a different term than the south side then, including the fact that when the wind blew the wrong way, we could smell the stockyards. But otherwise, it was a great, genteel neighborhood [03:00] near the University of Chicago [03:01]. And I went to the public schools, grade school, as in a grade school, and the Hyde Park High School [03:10], which was noted only for the thing that Amelia Earhart [03:18] was also a student there years before we were there. And after that, I went to the University of Illinois, Urbana [03:30], and I note that all of my education was public school. To get into the University of Illinois, you had to stand up straight, breathe deeply, and have \$35. That was it. And I think they weeded them out the first year, you know, in a course called Rhetoric 101. They really got rid of the bums [04:00] that way, I think. And then I went on to graduate from the University of Illinois [04:10].

INT: And what year did you graduate?

AT: '38. And I spent an awful lot of time working on the Daily Illini [04:19], which was a student newspaper that put out 36 pages a day. Can you imagine that? Thirty-six pages a day, all the comics, Associated Press [04:32] member, and as our editor told us, we got the biggest staff in Illinois, and we should be the best paper. I don't know whether that

one followed the other, but that's what he told us. And we were such a threat to the two towns of Urbana [04:49] and Champaign [04:52], that the Champaign News Gazette [04:52] finally put a bureau on campus to compete with this paper. But I spent an awful lot of time there and [05:00] --

INT: What did you study in undergrad?

AT: Oh, political science and liberal arts and sciences. And one day, I walked into the -- walked into a proficiency exam. And it was a proficiency exam in the school of Germans [phonetic], which tells you a lot about schools of Germans, in my opinion. I walked in there and passed a test of copy reading, and I got five hours of university credit for that. Really dumb. And so, I had that much time to spend working on the Daily Illini. Thereafter, I went -- I was sent by my father after I was graduated -- after I graduated. He told me, "If you want to do an advanced degree, do it while you can do it on me [06:00]." And I said, "I want to be a foreign correspondent." And he said, "All right." Now, the reason about doing it on me was I remember that my brother and I would always used to play around his knees when he was working on his master's degree at the University of Chicago [06:21] but -- and he worked hard to be sure, as he said to us one time, that we didn't work in a -- corn fields of Indiana the way he did as a young man. I remember him telling me about hoeing cotton, hoeing corn down in the bottom lands, as he called it, with a hired hand. And he said they got to the end of the row, and then he turned to him -- the hired hand turned to him and says, "Charlie, this row, and 19 more, and we'll be half done." [laughs] And my father was [07:00] keen on not having us experience that. So, he fixed it up so I would go six months at the Deutsch-Institut [07:09] die Ausländer at the -- at Berlin [07:12], at the University of Berlin [07:14].

Kaiser Wilhelm -- Kaiser Friedrich Wilhelm University [07:16]; and six months at the Alliance Française [07:23] in Paris [07:24]. Well, I never got to Paris because I got a job with the Chicago Tribune [07:29] reading the paper for the correspondent. She could read it, but I read the headlines [unintelligible] Stuttgart [07:40] and Vienna [07:41], what these guys were doing [phonetic]. And then all of a sudden, I got a hint from my hero, Wally Doole [phonetic] of the Chicago Daily News [07:51], that the AP [07:54] had an opening, and so I went down to the AP [08:00] and I was low man on the totem pole there, for as long as I can remember, until World War II [08:06] when we were interned at --

INT: But before we talk about that a little bit, would you mind speaking a little bit about your experiences in Germany and how -- had you gotten any training in German that -- did you speak any German or anything?

AT: No.

INT: So --

AT: Well, I mean, I'd taken a German course, but that meant -- I think that meant -- I think I took it in high school. I took it in high school from a lady who taught the -- who taught us Deutsche script [phonetic] [08:38]. Now, Deutsch script is -- can't be read by anybody alive that I know of, other than myself. But it's that fancy stuff, you know, and when I would write things at the University of Berlin [08:56] in this Deutsche script [08:57], they were astonished. They didn't know I learned it [09:00] in high school. But anyway, I didn't speak German.

INT: Were your courses taught in German?

AT: Where?

INT: At -- in Germany.

AT: Oh, well. It was -- yes, well, we were studying the German language. Yeah, we -- I wasn't studying any German history.

INT: Got you.

AT: And I lived at the Hegel House [09:27], and it was named Hegel House because Hegel lived there once. And it was across the canal from the Pergamon Museum [09:41], a very famous museum.

INT: When you were in Berlin [09:46] -- this was in Berlin, correct? When you were in Berlin, did you have any -- certainly there -- I would assume there would have been a bit of a military atmosphere? Was there, or --

AT: Well, if you think Hitler [09:57] was not military. Holy smoke [10:00]! I got a book through the library the other day called the -- "Kristallnacht [10:09]." Kristallnacht. I rode my bicycle all around Berlin [10:14] the day of the Kristallnacht, saw people throwing grand pianos out of second-story windows, fellows with white bands on, breaking windows. The best jewelry store in town had its windows smashed in. I saw a synagogue smoking -- I mean, in flames. I saw in the -- in the afternoon, the people who were going steadily on like this, and letting the fellows with the white bands who put -- it was a substitute for the Hakenkreuz band [10:54] that they didn't have enough of, walking like this to wherever they were going [11:00]. By afternoon, the ordinary people knew this was the thing to do. I never asked anybody, but I -- that was my impression. And they were participating in it. And I saw one place that said -- well, "This is a Jewish shop, but" -- a sign, the shop. But "Don't break it, don't break the window because I'm buying it," signed Joe Schmo or Joe Smith or something. And about an hour or two later,

it says, "This shop has been Aryanized. [speaks German]." And that means that this fellow had bought it, so don't break this window, for heaven's sake, because I've just bought it from this poor Jewish fellow. Well, it didn't say that. That's what happened.

INT: What sort of impression did this have on you? I mean, when you had decided, you and your father, that you were going to be going to Berlin [11:56], I assume you were obviously aware of what was going on [12:00].

AT: I -- that's the reason I picked it. That's what the -- that's where the news was. My gosh. Well, I wouldn't go to East Bicycle or North Balloon or anything like that. Germany was the place where the action was.

INT: And so, you spent six months there?

AT: I spent four years there.

INT: Oh, four. Okay. So, four years in Berlin [12:27]?

AT: Well, I was -- I came there in 1938, August 1938. And then Pearl Harbor [12:34] was the -- was the 7th of June -- 7th of December 1941, and I was at a dinner party with my chief, Louie P. Lochner [12:48], Pulitzer Prize winner. And why I got invited, I hadn't the foggiest notion. But all of a sudden, the telephone rang. And low man on the totem pole [13:00] -- totem pole, the farthest man at the table, I answered it, and it was the AP [13:10] bureau, a guy by the name of Eddie Shanke [13:12], and I said, "Hello, this is Angus." He said, "This is Eddie Shanke. Tell the chief I got the following from New York. Japs bombed Pearl Harbor [13:23]. Need comment soonest." Foreign Office comment in Germany. Well, I went to the chief. I said, "They bombed -- the Japs have bombed Pearl Harbor [13:34]." Okay. That was the end of the dinner party. And then the next day, the Propagandaministerium [13:52] press conference took place at its usual

hour. And Herr Barimer [phonetic], I think was his name, his opening remark was [14:00], "Now all American newsmen, go to their homes at once and consider themselves under house arrest." Of course, not a soul went to his house. They all went to the Bureau of Vital [unintelligible]. And I was at the bureau. I had been there already since about 6:00 in the morning. And in comes Louie Lochner [14:22], throws his coat down and starts handing out pieces of paper like this with a paragraph on it. Here's another one, here's another one, here's another one, here's another one. And then he said, "Okay. Let's close up." And he left the shop in charge of a German employee, and somewhere down the hall there was the -- a -- the Spanish edition of the Associated Press [15:00], The Prensa Asociado, and as I understood, they took it over and sort of covered everybody's tail. And we got -- but I was at the teletype sending out these things that Louie Lochner [15:16] was writing, and in those days, you used cablese. So, I was [unintelligible] all these things, and then I said, "Well, bye -- that's the end. Bye-bye, B-I-B-I -- or B-Y-E-B-Y-E. So bye-bye, bye-bye. We jail warding." That means we are going to jail instead of -- one word so we wouldn't have to pay for more than 20 words. [laughs] We jail warding now [16:00]. And then I signed off to [unintelligible]. I said, "That's the way we transmitted it [phonetic]." Amsterdam where we used to send it, occupied [unintelligible]. And so, sitting in the breakfast table at home in Chicago [16:19], my father reading the Chicago Tribune [16:23], said, "Yankee Angus Thuermer was the last man and he said, 'Bye-bye, we're going to jail now.'" My father [laughs] -- "What's all this?" That wasn't what he expected. And so, we went home and said -- and we were told, "Now, all you newsmen, go home and we'll pick you up." So, I went home and we waited and we waited. And I packed a little suitcase [17:00] and we waited, and it was

midnight. And I said, "Well, the bums are not coming to do whatever they're going to do." And so, I got out and got into my PJs with [unintelligible], and the door -- knock, knock, knock. I open the door. There were two guys, and one of them reaches in his pocket. And like a pocket watch, he pulls out a dial like this and says, "[speaks German]." And I said, "Where in the hell have you guys been? I've been waiting for you all night." "You've been waiting for the secret police? How do you know?" "Well, come on in." So, I was sitting. I said, "You want a Chesterfield cigarette?" "Oh, yes, yes." "Well, do you want the carton?" "Yes." "All right. I'm going to go get dressed now." And my roommate, who was of undetermined citizenship and had already been in some camps for some reason or other [18:00] because he didn't have the right sort of paper, he said to me, and he handed me a great big jackknife, which I didn't take. He said, "Here, take this. You'll need this where you're going." [laughs] I thought, "Holy smoke!" And so, I'd been chatting with these guys. I said, "Well, now, okay." I said, "I suppose we're supposed to go down." "Yeah, I guess so." The car is downstairs. We go downstairs. This is December, you see. And sitting there in the car freezing to death is my chief. He'd been sitting there freezing while I was chatting it up with these bums. So, they took us down to Alexanderplatz [18:46]. Now, Alexanderplatz is where the Gestapo [18:48] headquarters was. And so, they put us in the room there. All the newsmen were brought down -- collected there. Anyway, so we sat -- slept there -- slept on the concrete floor all night long [19:00]. And the next day, the radio -- they turned the radio on for us. And we heard Adolf Hitler [19:09] address the -- well, it wasn't the Reichstag [19:17]. It was something or other. Could you -- could you pour me a cup -- a cup of just black coffee? Why don't you guys help yourself too? You press down on that top. I think it's down,

yeah. It's all right. That's all right. All right, we'll see what happens. You have to tip it a long ways. Was it -- was it hot enough?

INT: Yes, thank you.

AT: Oh, it was? All right.

INT: You just want it black?

AT: Yeah, that's right. Yeah. Now, here's [unintelligible]. Now, [unintelligible] over there --

INT: Let's just say I'm fine, thank you. Thank you. Thank you, sergeant.

AT: Well, you wanted to take [unintelligible]?

INT: Thank you, Sergeant.

INT: Okay. This is unbelievable. This is unbelievable.

INT: I believe -- I apologize [20:00]. I jumped ahead of you in speaking about Germany. I infer from your story, then, that after you returned from your initial schooling in Berlin [20:09], did you return here and then go back to Illinois?

AT: Oh, no, no, no.

INT: Okay. So, you stayed -- in that case -- so after your initial training, you were -- you immediately found the position with the AP [20:19]?

AT: You know, my initial training, I -- as a matter of fact, one night a fellow came to my door. And I knocked, and they opened the door. I lived on the fourth floor of a building, and -- a embassy guy and I. And here was a fellow in a black morning coat, not tails, but short, with the Iron Cross for his clasp and on the other side, a big yellow Star of David. The Jews had to wear [21:00] Stars of David. And he said, "I wonder if you could help me." And I said, "Well, I'll see." He -- what he wanted -- he said, "I want to pay you here in marks, and I'll have dollars deposited to your account at home. Does that work

out right?" He pays me here. Anyway, but I said, "I'd love to be able to help you." But I didn't tell him why. I couldn't do it. The reason I couldn't do it was he was already working for the AP [21:44]. I was still getting cheap student marks, and I didn't know what would happen to me if they found out I was still working on student marks. And here I was, working at the AP [21:57]. So, that -- so that [22:00] -- in that same building, incidentally, I came in one day. It was very, very quiet. War stories. And as I went upstairs, I saw the floor beneath me, it was big, you know European keys and keyholes like this with a great big T like that, a thing like that. And over the top of it was pasted, "[speaks German]." They had been taken out, this family. The woman had tried to kill herself by throwing herself down the stairwell. And they caught her and brought her back and they took them all away. And two days later, the apartment was open for real people to look at. And I went down there, and just sort of stood around and listened to some of the people who were in -- looking to see what they could find [23:00]. And up on the top of a trunk, whatever that is, an armoire, there was a line of containers of tomato soup or something. And I heard one woman say, "Oh, look. See all the things they got. This is awful." Anybody could have saved their cans of tomato, but no, it was the Jewish people who were doing that. Think of that. And so, another time in that same flat, there was a knock on the door. And I -- tap-tap-tap -- and all day, I had been going down the streets, and on the streets, there were fellows with little cans like this with a handle on it, and you were to drop your pennies in them. And it said Red Cross [23:53] like this. Here it was, almost midnight, and this guy comes up, knocks at the door [24:00], shakes this thing. And I said -- I said, "Is the -- is that the Red Cross [24:04]?" And he said, "Yes, it is, sir." I said, "Well, the Red Cross is an international organization,

isn't it?" "Yes, indeed, it is." "Well, I've paid mine at home. Thank you very much." And I closed the door. The next day, my landlord came and said, "[speaks German]." And I said, "What do you mean, what did I say?" He said, "Well, I got a call from the [speaks German], the party man for our block, and he came up here and he said your student there or whatever, had made a [speaks German], a statement inimical to the state. And I said, "What was it?" Well, he didn't know. It's just -- I got this Gestapo [24:56] call just for a thing like that [25:00]. So, that was -- that was that. So, then we were -- back to the Alexanderplatz [25:08], where we were lying on the floor and we were about to -- the next day, we heard Hitler [25:12] give a speech to whoever it was, to whomever it was. It was the Reichstag [25:17] or [unintelligible] or something. And he went on and on and on. He did not declare war on the United States. He said, "I have returned the papers" -- his papers -- "to the American Chargé d'Affaires." That was the way he put it, and I guess Roosevelt [25:43] was scrambling around for any reason, and that was as close as it came to declaring war on Germany [25:50], which they did, I think, almost forthwith. And -- but Hitler [25:57] did not actually say, "I declare war [26:00] on the United States." So, then they took us off -- they took us home and said, "Get all your stuff. Pack, and we'll send a man to pick it up tonight." [unintelligible]. So, I packed up. I had a -- I had a trunk that my mother doled up for her little boy [unintelligible]. My gosh, it was tremendous. It was immense]. And this guy came from the embassy and just about died taking it down four or five -- and took it to the embassy because the newspapermen were being included in the diplomatic corps graduation, as was the same case in the United States. The German newsmen were to be exchanged, eventually, when the diplomats were exchanged. And so, then we were taken by [27:00] train -- a train

down to [unintelligible] to the Bad [unintelligible], well I forget the name of the hotel. But we called it the Bad House], and we thought that was pretty funny. [laughs] And we were there for five months, and then we were put on another secret Gestapo [27:28] train, to go down to Spain [27:33]. And as this secret Gestapo train passed through some hilly part of France, where there's a Frenchman, Mr. France himself, beret down like this, an already-smoked Gauloise hanging out of the corner of his mouth, a blue -- a blue -- what are these big things they wore over -- blue [28:00] -- really, it's not a shawl. I think it's a shirt that goes down to your feet. And he was standing there on this hillock, and all of a sudden, he reaches down, pulls up this thing like that, pulls out an American flag, waves it back and forth as this secret train passes and then shoots off through the brush.

[laughter]

Barbara Fritchie [28:22]. So, there we are. And then we were exchanged.

INT: So, that's when you took a ship?

AT: Yeah, we took the Drottningholm [28:38] which was a Swedish ship, great big letters, D-R-O, that size on them, on a white ship, and we went straight to New York [28:47] like that. I later found out in my interrogation of prisoners that we had passed over one of the biggest U-boat [28:57] wolf packs you ever saw in your life [29:00] who were in a big circle like this, waiting for another convoy to come, and along comes the Drottningholm [29:07] like that. Well, so we got home the 1st of June 1942, and I went back to the Associated Press [29:16] in Chicago [29:18].

INT: And how long were you with the AP in Chicago at that point?

AT: Yeah, well, I was with the AP there. Oh, incidentally, in the meantime, before I got out of the Navy, I was working for All Hands [29:32] magazine, which had the biggest

circulation of any magazine in the world, 495,000 copies to every sailor who could stand up straight -- and wartime figure. And the editor of the magazine was the fellow, now masquerading as a commander, who was my editor in the Daily Illini [29:59] at the University of Illinois [30:00]. And he went out into the Navy, picked up every old staffer from the Daily Illini and then brought him down to work on the [unintelligible]. And so, I said to him one day, I said, "Oh, say." The Prinz Eugen [30:20], the cruiser, the heavy cruiser that went with the Bismarck [30:26] out cruising, and the Bismarck got into trouble for this propeller -- I mean, it was the rudder, and the Prinz Eugen [30:27] went off to the South Atlantic. Well, when the war ended, there's such a thing as a prize ship. It sounds very 18th Century, but the Prinz Eugen [30:50] was our prize ship, and it had a U.S.A. captain -- well, the real captain [31:00] was standing alongside, telling him [unintelligible]. The American captain was the assistant Naval attaché who'd done five months with me in the Bad Nalheim [phonetic] and... from Berlin [31:15] -- and so I saw that they got in the newspapers up there. The girls from Philadelphia [31:22] all came out raising a lot of Cain with the German crew. And I wrote him a letter and I said, "Dear Speedy" -- Speedy Graubart [31:30] was his name, real American name, Graubart - - and so I said, "Speedy, what you really need is a good PR officer, ha-ha-ha, bad for you." And so, I got a letter back from the captain and then Speedy Graubart [31:49] said, "Report in to Captain So-and-So, the Bureau of Personnel." And I was transferred up to be on Prinz Eugen [32:00]. And I told this to my captain, who was my former college [unintelligible]. I said, "Oh, why did I [unintelligible]?" I said, "Look, I'll write you a story about it. We're going out to the Bikini bomb, to the atom bomb test. I'll write you a big story about going through the Panama Canal [32:18] on the Prinz Eugen [32:20], so

on and so forth." He said, "Well, okay." So, I did go up there, and I remember going on the bridge one time, and there was a U.S. Naval Academy ensign fresh out of Annapolis [32:38] standing on the rim of the bridge; and the captain, my friend, was seated with his back to the wind on the other. And I came up through the ladder and I said, "Well, Speedy [32:51], you're doing a great old job here, Buddy." And here this ensign down at the other [unintelligible] captain like that.

[laughter]

He didn't know we were --

[End of Tape 1A]

[Beginning Tape 1B]

AT: -- we met years afterwards in Oslo, and you didn't know what to ask him. What did you do during the war, Daddy? He was equipped with the -- what was that name thing?

INT: Quisling [00:17].

AT: Quisling. And this fellow said to me, "Oh, I did a little skiing." And --

INT: I'm going to take -- I need to take a quick break. Can I use your restroom, sir? I'm sorry.

AT: You're looking for the john?

INT: Yes, sir.

AT: Down there. Head for -- straight ahead, but turn to your left.

INT: Okay. Be back in a second.

AT: All right.

INT: Outstanding.

AT: That's an heirloom. You know, and the typewriter I had is right in the middle of the room there. That should be in the movie.

[laughter]

INT: And so, as much as I really, really would like to keep talking about your time in Germany, [unintelligible].

AT: That's not part of this.

INT: We'd like to [01:00] -- if we come back again, we'll chat some more with that.

AT: I'm sorry. I got -- we got distracted.

INT: No, that's -- no, this is -- this is certainly relevant stuff.

[talking simultaneously]

INT: No, we don't. Don't worry. I just -- this is -- this is outstanding. So, you were with the AP [01:14] bureau in Chicago [01:15] from June '42 until when?

AT: Until I was chosen as a Nieman Fellow [01:24] of Harvard University [01:25]. And there are 12 newsmen every year who are picked. And you go to Harvard and you do what you want to do, namely either nothing or something. The curator of Nieman Fellows [01:42] said, "Okay, guys, at least take one course and do the exams and write the paper." The rest of the time -- well, I took elementary classic Tibetan -- well, I mean, every newsman needs that doesn't he, right down to the police station [02:00]? So, the class consisted of three persons, the instructor and another fellow and myself. And I soon faded from that class when the instructor said to the other fellow, "Well, you know, it's like the [unintelligible] in Mandarin." And the guy says, "Oh, [unintelligible]." They both spoke Chinese, and I didn't speak diddly-squat. But anyway, so I was writing up my lesson at the whatever-it-is library there, and going along like this -- I guess [unintelligible]. And the guy across from me looks over at my notebook and says, "What is this?" And I said, "Tibetan." He says, "Does it have letters?" And I said, "Of course it has letters [03:00]."

And he says, "Oh, it's easy."

[laughter]

So, I guess he was a Chinese fellow.

INT: And so, this was all before you went into the service, though?

AT: Well, I went into the service in -- but no, I went into the AP [03:21] in 1938, came back -
- oh, in the service? Yeah.

INT: I mean, not the news service, into the civil service [unintelligible].

AT: I went from the -- from the -- from Harvard [03:35], I came from -- out from Harvard, I came back and went to the New York [03:48] office. And I had, in between -- and at Harvard [03:54] I studied about India because as a [04:00] smart fellow who had just been there, an AP [04:03] man said, "You know, from Suez east there are 12 new nations, and that means news." And so, I said [unintelligible] about India." And so, I came down -- I told -- I came to the end of my Nieman [04:21] thing and I had also got a Fulbright [04:24] fellowship to India. And I went into the New York [04:28] office and talked to the guy who was the boss, who had been the sports editor of the entire Associated Press [04:34], but now he was the chief. And I said, "Well, so and so and so and so, I got this Fulbright [04:43] so I could go to India, and I studied all about this. And so how about it; namely, could I go on and still have my job?" And he says, "If you want to play hardball, stay in the major leagues [05:00]." That meant no. I interpreted that [unintelligible].
[laughs] And so I went back to the Washington [05:13] bureau and I sat around a while. And across from me was another AP [05:20] man, Joe Goodwin [05:21], who had served in India. And all of a sudden, one night he disappeared, and he disappeared and disappeared and disappeared and didn't ever come back. Until one night he came back,

and he said, "Did you say that you wanted to go to India?" And I said, "Yes." And he said, "Follow me." And so, I went out and I had a real cheap old lunch with a CIA [05:48] officer, and so I joined CIA as of -- at that time, about '48 [06:00] -- what time would this be, for heaven's sake? Well, anyway, I joined the AP -- I joined the CIA [06:09] at that point and was sent to Bombay [06:13] as chief of base.

INT: So, at what point did you -- did you join the Navy [06:20] during the war? Because that's what I was trying to figure out [unintelligible].

AT: Yeah, let's see. I joined the Navy when I came back from internment because I got off the ship, the Drottningholm [06:34], got off the ship and some fellow said, "You'd better sign on somewhere or they'll come and get you." That means everybody had to sign -- every male had to sign that you were available to be drafted. And so, I went to some place in New York [06:49] and signed up. And so, then I said, "Okay. Now I'm going back to Chicago [06:54], where I'll go to the Associated Press [06:57]." All right. Now, there I am [07:00], and at that point, somebody said, "Well, you'd better look out, your number's coming up." And I said, "Well, I didn't spend six years in ROTC [07:09] to be drafted." Six -- three years in high school and three years in college. And I didn't get a commission because I was too young; I was under 21. And so, I went down to the Naval office, and I came in and saw some guy there, Commander Oakes [phonetic], and I said, "I want to join the Navy and I can go and interpret prisoners -- and interrogate prisoners for you." And I said, "I speak German." And so, the son of a gun switches to German. Oh, that's really dirty.

[laughter]

And however, I was right off the boat. I had Berlin [07:58] slang down [08:00], I had

this, I had that. I rattled on until Commander Oakes finally switched back to English.

And he said, "Well, why don't you go up to the Naval station and join up there -- Great Lakes Naval Training Station [08:17]. And you join up there and we'll come and get you and you'll be commissioned." I said, "No, no. I'm not walking around up there." I was -- I said, "I didn't spend six years in ROTC [08:28] to be swaddled. Either you commission me or we'll do something else." So, I was commissioned as a Naval officer in the -- intelligence.

INT: And that was as an ensign?

AT: Yeah, ensign.

INT: Okay. And about when would this have been? Would this have been late '42?

AT: Well, let's see now. What did I say? Came back in '41, -- I was -- oh, '51 was my class as a Nieman Fellow [09:00]. '51. And I went down to -- and '53 was when I joined at the -- joined the CIA [09:13] in Indiana [phonetic] because all of -- if you don't want to play on major leagues, then hardball -- that jerk. But I did -- I did make a misstep. He asked me earlier on, how many foreign languages -- oh no, "How many languages do you speak?" And I said, "Two." And he said, "French and German?" And I said, "No, German and English." [laughs] And he didn't think that was very funny, but he didn't think anything of mine.

INT: So, you joined the Navy after being in the AP [09:42] in Chicago [09:43], and sometime after 1942 or so, and then did you go to be commissioned as an officer? Did you have to go to any training or was it the fact that you had been in ROTC?

AT: I did -- I did go to some training. It was up on Long Island [09:57], for some reason, and it was sort of march and countermarch [10:00]. And interestingly enough, well, you

didn't make your own bed; they had some Puerto Ricans come in and do that. That's the way it is to be an officer, you see. You don't make your own bed. I was -- I was up on the way to Hamburg [10:15] one time, and -- with the Royal Marines [10:17], and I started digging a trench and well, a Marine came over and said, "Oh, officers don't dig trenches." I'll be. Well, yeah, I mean, that's really -- that -- you know, that's the way to go [laughs]. And so anyway, to get back. Then I spent a little time -- I was almost -- almost quickly, I was assigned to Operation 16-Z [10:50], Op 16-Z. Now, you know that. Now, that's the -- and I was the officer from there, and went to Fort Hunt [11:00]. And there -- I know there was a -- I know there was a lieutenant commander or a commander. I never got to meet him. I knew that there was a three-stripe -- I mean, a petty officer first class, three hashmarks -- three -- what do you call them? But anyway -- is it [unintelligible]? Three [unintelligible] first class, who I think was a Navy linguist in German. And I think he went in the various -- let's call them cells, little rooms, that I believe were bugged, of course. And here I'm an enlisted [12:00] petty officer, "How are you doing today, old boy?" and that sort of thing. And the whole thing was recorded. And I never actually saw him in action, but that's what I know he was supposed to be doing. And later, I ran into him, I think in France, somehow. He had been commissioned and he was an officer. For some reason, he wouldn't speak to me, but maybe I didn't treat him right as a -- well, anyway. So, now, the person I remember having interrogated, they handed me this German officer and his name was Klaus Bargston [12:45], B-A-R-G-S-T-O-N, Klaus Bargston, known as [speaks German]. That was his -- what do you call it? Nickname. Klausenhouse [phonetic]. And Klausenhouse [13:00] was in a U-boat [13:02], and I gather -- but we didn't push it too much -- was off the American coast.

And somebody on a periscope said there was something up there. And he said, "Well, let me see. Let's go look." Or [unintelligible] whatever the order is -- surface. And so, he went up there; and he, being the captain, was going to pop out first and see if it was true and go back and say take her down. And he -- bang -- threw it open, jumped up, looked around. Then in came a -- in came a wave, slammed that hatch down, and he was apparently swept off. And he was the only survivor of that U-boat [14:00]. Now, quel dommage, a captain is supposed to go down with his ship, you know. But everybody else except the captain went down. And well, this awkward matter did not come up, but he was talking to me about his life. And he said that he had been a midshipman. May I get you something?

INT: No, I'm fine.

AT: A midshipman on the Grille [14:39] -- I think that was the word, Grille [14:41]. I think it means monkey. Hitler's [14:44] yacht, which he visited once, I think. He was not really a sort of a sea goer or anything -- Austrians aren't that -- don't have -- well, anyway, except but again who's on third [15:00]? And then that cruiser was named Prinz Eugen [15:05] because Hitler [15:08] was trying to cozy up to the Hungarians at that time, rather than -- maybe he already had invaded them. I don't know. But anyway, that's why [unintelligible]. So Klausenhouse [15:26] was telling me about being a midshipman on the Grille [15:29]. And he said -- interesting thing happened. He said Goebbels [15:34] came to visit. Now, Goebbels was the propaganda Minister, the one who killed all those children. Awful fellow. And he came aboard and he said, "Well, first of all, the Kriegsmarine [15:50]." The German Navy was not all that pro-Nazi [15:54] at all, standing into the top ranks [16:00]. And so, in comes Goebbels [16:04] and the

[unintelligible] engineer, the chief engineer of the Grille [16:11], notices -- and he was up on the deck -- notices that Goebbels [16:16] was right next to an air vent, a spring-actuated air vent. And so, the leading engineer says, "[speaks German] -- Raise air vent Number 10." Whap! It comes up and knocks Goebbels [16:44] right in the fanny. And oh, my goodness, he says Klausenhouse [16:51], he says everybody on the deck, "Oh, Herr Reichsminister!" And the leading [unintelligible] chief engineer says, "Oh, this way, Herr Minister! This way! Goebbels [17:00], call the [speaks German]! Call the doctor!" They get down there, and everybody's in this cabin down there -- and the -- I don't know whether he said it, but it is presumed that the -- that the physician said, "And now, Herr Minister, if I may use the term, would you kindly lower away [laughs] so I may inspect the wound?" So, he lowers away, and everybody else looks at the bulkhead or -- at a Naval indoctrination course one time one of the commanders said, "You know this is a ceiling, but it is an overhead]. That is a wall, but it's a bulkhead. This is a floor, but it's a deck. What's the matter? What is this stair? This is the staircase, but it's a ladder here [18:00], and this is -- right. But it's starboard. This is left, but it's port." Well anyway [laughs] so they're looking at the overhead and the bulkhead and so forth while he was lowering away. And the [unintelligible], the staff [unintelligible] doctor says, "Well, Herr Minister, I would -- I would recommend the following treatment." "Oh, yes." "A pint of rum for all hands."

[laughter]

And so, then he said -- Klausenhouse [18:46] said -- no much later than that, there was a reception in Berlin [18:55] and the staff of the [19:00] Goebbels was invited down and the big, fancy reception by the -- by the generals and minister. And he said -- we were

going along the line here to shake hands, shake hands, shake hands. And the first hand -- the first -- the wife and then the minister and then the governor. And as the chief engineer approached, she looked up and said, "Oh, I know you! You're the chief engineer. My husband has told me how your -- how wonderful you were in the matter of [unintelligible]." [laughs] They never, never penetrated. Anyway, so --

INT: And so, when you were speaking -- when you were at Fort Hunt [19:51], you mentioned the Klausenhouse [19:53]. Were there other prisoners that you spoke with? Was he primarily the one assigned to --

AT: No, he's primarily the one. I might have spoken [20:00] to other ones, but I don't remember -- that's why I say I've got so little to tell you. I don't remember having had any interrogation sessions with -- at that point. The interrogator -- interrogation I did was over at the -- at NID1BW [phonetic], which was the admiralty. And on the shore and in France and in Normandy [20:26] and then all other places. And that's why there was so little here to tell. But now, let's see, I think the [unintelligible], let's see, what is this? Lower away -- oh, I remember [inaudible].

INT: Did you say what had happened to the sub after the captain was swept off?

INT: Presumably they --

AT: Oh, I think it went down. It went down. Yeah, that was -- see, that was the horrible part. He, as I say [21:00], the captain's supposed to go down with the ship but it was quite the other way around. The ship went down and there was the captain.

INT: So, I guess he -- was he rescued by an American ship, or did he wash up on the shore or something?

AT: Oh, I think he was picked up by -- there must have been something [unintelligible] that

they were really -- it was really after them, and it must have picked him up.

INT: So, it wasn't just mechanical problems and the ship went down, but there actually may have been sinking by an Allied ship?

AT: Well, I suppose so. I suppose so. The hatch went down, and he was -- he was swept off or couldn't get back, and the ship was -- it was [unintelligible] sunk -- as far as I know, it sunk. Now, we always had -- where we were interrogating overseas, we had a big book, which I actually followed the instructions and burned it in a Paris [21:57] hotel, per instructions. But it had [22:00] -- let's see, the three [unintelligible] were here. See here and see here. And then there was the number of the U-boat [22:11] here, and what we knew about it, or what we didn't know about it. And we could report back and forth to that when we were talking with another fellow. You know, I sent -- I sent a letter to the editor of the Post, I guess. Did I tell you about, about this torture business? And I said, "I'd like to tell you about my experiences in World War II interrogating prisoners." "We never laid a mitt on them, and we got exactly what we wanted." I said, "Oh, excuse me." One time a Royal Marine [22:52] officer took -- the rubber end of his pencil and poked it in the chest of a prisoner [23:00]. And that was the only time I saw anybody -- anywhere near, and we always got what we wanted because we [unintelligible]. I remember -- I don't know how many of these German fellows -- I said, "Oh, you must have a -- you must have a cousin in Milwaukee." Oh, a lot of them had cousins in Milwaukee [laughs]. But -- so now, back to Fort Hunt. They -- there wasn't much running around there. I remember when we were -- but I think -- I had my officer's cap on when I was talking to Klausenhouse [23:41], and I remember putting it down on the grass and we were lying down. And I was watching him watch the Greyhound buses go by. I don't know what

was going through his mind, if we get through this wire fence and get on the Greyhound bus and go down to Miami or what, but no chance of that [24:00]. But I noticed that I put my hat down, and I looked at the top -- all of the officers' hats had a little place up in the top where you put your calling card, your name. And I had Angus MacLean Thuermer stuck in there. And I was calling myself Lieutenant MacLean, if anybody wondered. So, I just had to turn that over there. It was before -- I don't know whether he saw it or not.

INT: So, sir, you had been assigned or you chose that pseudonym per se [unintelligible]?

AT: I just chose it, yeah.

INT: Okay. Did everyone that you know of have some sort of --

AT: I assume so, yes.

INT: And with Fort Hunt [24:45], do you recall roughly how long you were there for, how long you were assigned?

AT: It wasn't very long. It was -- we counted it in weeks rather than anything else.

INT: Okay [25:00]. While you were there --

AT: And incidentally, I went in and out. I never stayed overnight there.

INT: Oh, [unintelligible] --

AT: I was driven back to -- I think I had a room in Washington, D.C. [25:11] somewhere.

INT: Oh, really? Okay. Okay. What was your interaction there? Could you talk a little about the Navy versus Army? Were there more Army men there than the Navy? Or was it --

AT: I never -- I never thought of the Army being there.

INT: So then, in your mind, did it seem to be largely a Navy facility?

AT: Well, I didn't have anything to do with any Army fellows there. No, I can't remember of any -- I -- as I say I've known that there was a Navy lieutenant commander down there at

end of the hall, but I always saw his back [26:00].

INT: Did you -- were you in your own building or structure there or was most of your work actually in with -- where the prisoners were kept, or was there more of an office that you worked in?

AT: Well, I think it was sort of an office situation, but there were rooms around nearby where they took the prisoners. And after they were through, they dumped them, and they went out to California or Nevada or somewhere.

INT: And while you were there, you mentioned this one particular discussion or interrogation that you had with Klausenhouse [26:44]. Was that -- that was actually over the course of several days. Was that -- did you usually start talking in generalities?

AT: It wasn't over the course of several days. All of this I got in one sitting.

INT: Oh, this is just in one sitting?

AT: Or lying in the grass [27:00] and having a good old time.

INT: And so, that's where you were, the international interrogation room?

AT: No, I wasn't, but I think this petty officer was, he would go in and sit and chat with these guys.

INT: And so, again, you only remember primarily speaking to this one individual. Were there -- do you remember if there were other Navy personnel? You mentioned that one lieutenant commander and then the three-striper as well. Did you get the impression that there were other Navy men there, interrogation --

AT: Well, I knew -- I knew later -- I met fellows, whether they had processed through or worked in Fort Hunt [27:49], I do not know. I just know that -- well, it's just like the CIA [27:55] gets its best linguists from the Mormon church, which is the same with Naval

intelligence [28:00] because these poor blighters had to go overseas a year. And I remember one of my best friends that I -- he said, "I walked into this house where I'd been a -- last time they saw me, I was a minister. And I walked in with this helmet on, a pistol [unintelligible]. "Ah, Herr Dibble [phonetic], was Machen zie hier? What are you doing here?" And this is the same Mormon fellow that [unintelligible]. I used to go in a jeep with him up to the front and finally, I said, "[unintelligible], I know you don't smoke, and I know you don't drink tobacco -- I mean, you don't drink coffee [29:00], but I know you chew tobacco. But if you don't spit up here rather than over here, I'm going to -- I'm going to throw you out of this jeep." And well, but he was a -- he was he was a linguist of note. I think his son is in the agency too because he stayed on.

INT: I think we need to go ahead and stop for a moment because we're running out of tape and --

AT: Yeah, I'm glad you [unintelligible].
[talking simultaneously]

INT: -- so we can take another brief little break here and chat for maybe a [unintelligible].
And so, looking at the time, it's not quite 3:30, I guess?

AT: Well, let's see.

INT: If that clock over there is correct.

AT: Let's see. It says there are no messages. Sorry [30:00]. 3:35 is what I get. Does that --
does that sound about right?

INT: Do you want to do maybe another half hour or do -- what would you like to do? Would
you like to --

INT: I think we need to go -- continue.

AT: Okay.

INT: How are you feeling?

INT: How are you feeling?

AT: How am I feeling?

INT: Yeah, I mean, are we wearing you out?

AT: No, I've been -- I've been worked over by more than three guys before.

[laughter]

INT: [unintelligible]

INT: [unintelligible] one of your tapes?

INT: I'm sorry.

AT: Oh, [unintelligible].

INT: Are we -- are we frying you with the light or do you feel like a lobster at the buffet or are you okay? Is the light okay?

AT: No, that's all right.

INT: Oh, fantastic [31:00].

[End of Tape 1B]

[Beginning of Tape 2A]

INT: I was going to ask you some more specific questions [inaudible] so we can get everything that's around. You don't want to make a -- we don't want to miss this.

AT: No, I -- maybe if I make a few notes, I can make up some stuff that sounds pretty good.

[laughter]

INT: You've got a great wit. I'm sure that it served you well.

AT: A great what?

INT: Wit.

AT: Oh, really? Well, I write about the stuff ahead of time.

INT: [unintelligible]? Okay. We'll go ahead and get going again. This is Tape 2 of our interview with Angus MacLean Thuermer here in the town of Middleburg on October 25th, 2006. Again, this is National Parks Service Cultural Resource Specialist Brandon Bies, as well as George Washington Memorial Parkway [01:00] Chief Ranger Vincent Santucci and Park Ranger Sam Swersky. And we were talking a bit about your experiences at Fort Hunt [01:08], and I'd like to get into a little bit about when you were assigned at Fort Hunt, although -- be it for a brief period of time, what were -- what were your instructions? What were you told? What was your -- was someone telling you what questions to ask or what information?

AT: No. No.

INT: What sort of information --

AT: Oh, well, now, I remember -- now, I don't know whether I link it precisely with Fort Hunt [01:36], but I remember in the course of human events, we were looking for things like, oh, "When did you attend the torpedo school?" Well, he hadn't said he attended torpedo school. I'm talking about the other situation. Oh, well [02:00] -- it's like, oh, well, yes. Well, oh, my goodness, no, you must have -- you must -- you must have seen that new -- what sets something off in an ignition, that [unintelligible] that sticks out in front of the torpedo?

INT: Detonator?

AT: Detonator. You must have seen the new detonator Number 7. Well, we've never seen Number 7. We've never seen Number 6. So, if these guys would go along with it, you

know, that's the way it would go. On the other hand, now, the techniques, a fellow is fished out of the ocean. I remember seeing a picture one time, a Royal Navy [02:47] picture, of a fellow reaching over the bow of a British destroyer, grabbing the fellow by the -- by the arm and saying, "What number?" What submarine number [03:00]. The guy says -- he says, "No [unintelligible]." And he says, "Give me the right number." Okay. Now, the guy gets out, separates the officers from the enlisted men. That's numero uno. And then you take their clothing. Now in their hip pockets...now, the German submarines, when they went ashore in Brest [03:27] and in all those ports along there, there were Wehrmacht [03:31] bordellos. And a crewman who went into a bordello and was serviced by one of the women there got a card that said, "The Wehrmacht [03:50] bordello such-and-such [German] partner, Maria." Okay. He put that in his pocket [04:00], in his hip pocket, and he went to sea. Now, if he broke out with something awful, why, the ship's doctor would call him and say, "Give me your cards. Oh, this is the last one you were -- when you were in Brest [04:14] last? Okay? Yeah." Then they would telegraph, "Take Maria out of business." That's the way to do it. All right. Now, these guys would come in and they were separated from the officers. They were separated from their pants. And we got these cards, and we'd sit there and sit there, these things in there in my lap and -- in the lap and say [unintelligible], "Is Maria still on the job down there?" "Wait, what do you mean?" "[unintelligible] at bordello Number 4?" Well, the idea was -- I'd been reading it off there, too. "My gosh, those bums know everything. They know the names of the -- the names [05:00] of the prostitutes. Well, what's this business about Torpedo Number 7? If I know, I'll tell them." That sort of thing.

INT: So, what sort of information did you know about the prisoner beforehand? Nothing except for that sort of thing, or did you have a file?

AT: No, no, no. Well, we might have known the names of some of the captains, but I don't think so. The captains were coming along right out of -- right out of the sea -- the school.

INT: And so, were your instructions essentially to just get any information possible out of this person for you, or were you specifically told, "You need to find out about detonator Number 7"?

AT: Well, I recall that because we must have been given that because I think the figures -- the names and the figure -- are still in my mind for that time. And [06:00] we would -- we would pick up other things and pass it -- pass it back. Conditions -- like those conditions on the ship -- or a ship -- or coming through the -- coming through the channel, or we were spotted by such-and-such. Now, how would we know -- how would I know later that the Drottningholm [06:31] went aboard -- went over this ring of U-boats? We must have known that maneuver unless -- I think we must have known it.

INT: What did you do with the information that you got out of an interrogation? Did you then type this up, write it up, and submit a report to someone [07:00]? Or was it just work, but then you just walk into an officer's office and report to him?

AT: Well, I can't -- I can't recall writing up anything because, as I had mentioned, I was a newspaperman. I was used to it. But I can't remember doing that because the only writing up I was doing in the Navy was this business with All Hands [07:36] magazine and telling the -- telling the commander that I'd give him a story on the Prinz Eugen [07:44], which I have in my files. No, I can't remember doing that, no. It seems pretty sloppy not to do that, doesn't it?

INT: Unless -- and this leads to my other question, is [08:00] you mentioned that you figured that many of the rooms there at Fort Hunt [08:03] had been bugged in one way or another.

AT: Nobody ever told me that.

INT: Okay. So, you didn't know that for a fact? You just -- you said [unintelligible]?

AT: [unintelligible]. That's the way it's done. I don't know.

INT: Okay. Did you have any idea if they had anybody bugs outdoors? For example, you had this conversation outside with [unintelligible]?

AT: Well, I just casually picked it. No, I don't -- I don't think so. I think I would be tending to go towards a certain section if they were outside. Say -- but it --

INT: Sure. Somebody didn't say, "Oh, you have to sit underneath that tree with the prisoner." You just went on out and [unintelligible]?

AT: Yeah, that -- yeah.

INT: Okay. Specifically, with your interrogations with Klaus Bargston [08:47], do you recall what sort of information came out of that specific interview, with discussion with him, or just what you recall already about his submarine?

AT: Well, just that his background -- that background [09:00]. Now, I must have told that to somebody. I know -- I know I've written about it in various little things that I have written. I don't know whether any of them were published, but I got -- I must have -- I have a manuscript about this thick called "What to Do if Your Mustache Falls Off." It's supposed to be a spoof on the CIA [09:28], but I don't know whether it is or not. Got it back from a publisher who said that people expect intelligence to be serious. I said, "Not on your nelly," but I didn't send it back. So, I think that must be in there somewhere; but

no, I didn't. We must have gotten instructions on something. I remember now, one time, but this is not there. I dressed up as a Russian officer [10:00].

INT: Was this at Fort Hunt [10:02]?

AT: This was after Hunt, yeah. And in the middle of it all, after saying, "[speaks German]," to a Royal Marine that was working with me and the prisoner standing there, and he'd been on the Western Front -- I mean, the Eastern Front [10:22]. And the idea was if you don't sing, buddy, this Russian naval officer's going to take you up and you will sing where you go with him. And I sat down there, after doing this [unintelligible] business, and the Russian uniform, even the shoulder boards, are almost an exact replica of my great coat in the U.S. Navy. And so, I just wore that. And in the middle of it, the telephone rings. I automatically reach over, grab it [11:00], and it's one of our guys. As a matter of fact, it was later chairman of the Department of Arts at Harvard University [11:12], and I said, "Oh, no, crap, is that true?" in my best American English. This prisoner could hardly control himself. And I started laughing, and the Royal Marine [11:28] started laughing, and we said, "Oh, we got to jump this guy," and he was shaken up in paroxysms of [unintelligible]. [laughs] But that didn't happen in Fort Hunt [11:42].

INT: Was that taking the Russian position, was that common practice, do you believe?

AT: No, because we didn't -- you had to find out that there was a reason for it. He had said [12:00] "Well, where did you serve last?" Oh, he had been turned into a soldier and sent to the Eastern Front [12:07]. And that's where they got him. They found out that he'd been in -- that he'd been a sailor, and sent him back to the Naval [unintelligible]. And that's why we had this business that he'd [unintelligible].

INT: When you were in Naval intelligence, specifically at Fort Hunt [12:25], do you ever

recall running across the name of someone named Alberti [12:30]?

AT: Who?

INT: Alberti?

AT: Oh, yes. Yes, Alberti. My goodness gracious. For heaven's sakes, Alberti.

[unintelligible].

INT: I am very curious, what if anything -- what can you tell us about this individual? Because that's something that we're trying to find out, so any information, anything whatsoever about Alberti [13:00].

AT: Oh, gosh. You saw how instantaneously I reacted.

INT: [unintelligible].

AT: My goodness. Where would I know him? In Europe?

INT: No, most likely at Fort -- most likely at Fort Hunt [13:18]. He may have been in Europe. He very well may have been involved in Europe as well, but anything -- I'll tell you a little bit about what little we know about him, but anything -- if you recall anything with [unintelligible] --

AT: No, I just recall the name, but I think he was sort of a [unintelligible] nice looking fellow.

INT: What we understand is Alberti [13:45] was an individual in or around Fort Hunt [13:48] who was a Navy man. He originally was, I believe, a civilian, but was working for the Navy and later may have received a commission on but I believe was primarily in civilian clothes [14:00] and was essentially the direct link between the Pentagon [14:05] and the interrogations at Fort Hunt [14:08]. And so, that much we do know about him, but he seems to have had a lot to do with the interrogations there at Fort Hunt.

AT: He very well might have.

INT: So, the name certainly rings a bell, but you don't recall minor details.

AT: That's it -- chop. Now that you've planted his name, with me, if anything comes up I'll certainly let you know -- or make up something pretty well.

INT: His name certainly has appeared on a number of these OP-16-Z [14:43] reports--

AT: Oh, he has to be.

INT: -- related to Fort Hunt [14:45]. And he had a good bit to do with a German U-boat that came in past your time, the U-234 [14:52], which was a very -- literally, a very large submarine that came in at the very end of the war with all sorts of information [15:00] on board, but that would have been after your time.

AT: Yeah, but now, what about 505 [15:05]?

INT: I don't know his involvement with the 505. Were you involved with the 505?

AT: No, I know I was standing on -- in the grass in France with several -- some of my buddies, and we were -- there was a great POW cage with wire around a piece of France. And up came a staff car, and off got a commandant of Brest --yeah, that was it-- whose name I can recall shortly, maybe. And he got up and he was passing -- he was going to call -- to call on the American commander of the 7th Corps [15:55], who had just beat their fanny. And [16:00] as he passed along the fence, the officers in the POW cage came over and "Oh, yeah, [unintelligible]." And so, then he says to his ADC, "Oh, you can give me one of my pictures from the big batch, from the big -- from the big suitcase." And he tried to pass it through, and finally, an American officer came up and shook-- "Get out of here." Incidentally, the fellow who allowed him to do that was on the boat to New York [16:38] the next day. But anyway, he came in and was about to -- I don't know what he was doing -- present his sword to the commander of the 7th Corps or not,

but he didn't have the tea and cookies with him or anything. The American commander said -- "Yeah, all right. Beat it and get out of here [17:00]," because they had other things to do. Well, anyway, that -- oh, yes, and when I was standing there, why, somebody came up to me and said, "Oh, [unintelligible]. They got the 505 [17:17]." They -- he whispered it to me, "They got the 505." And that was, to us, absolutely fabulous news because if nobody got aboard and they towed it off, got out of the inside, and the code books, and everything. Holy smoke. You know where it is now?

INT: I know I should. Is it in Portsmouth [17:45]?

AT: It's down at the Field Museum [17:47] in Chicago [17:48].

INT: Field Museum, right, right, right. And so, that was the first U-boat captured, in fact?

AT: I think so. I think so. But it's very hot stuff to us. We thought maybe we could all go home now or something [18:00].

INT: And you mentioned the barbed wire, and that brought this to mind. Getting back to Fort Hunt [18:08] for a little while longer, I realize you were only there for a few weeks or so. What do you remember about the physical description where the prisoners were kept? Were they kept in a barbed wire enclosure?

AT: They were -- I think they were -- no, I don't know whether barbed wire -- I suppose up at the top there was, but it was off a ways. Aside from -- my recollection, aside from several of these rooms, I just -- you never heard the word "cell." But there -- were sort of holding there until it was time for them to be talked to.

INT: Do you recall if it was in an above-ground facility or if it was below ground?

AT: Oh, it was above ground, oh yeah.

INT: Out in an open field, surrounded by woods, or anything about [19:00] the surroundings?

AT: Well, no, as I say now, Bargston [19:05] and I were lying in the grass there. And there was the highway with the Greyhound buses going by. So, that's the limits of the -- wherever we were.

INT: Sure. Were there a good number of guards there? Do you -- were you responsible for guarding him? Did you have a sidearm or anything like that?

AT: [unintelligible] No.

INT: Okay. Do you recall there being any --

AT: I never saw any. I saw -- I never saw anybody looking as if he were a guard. As a matter of fact, maybe they were trying to give the impression that such things don't exist here.

INT: When you were -- when the time came for you to leave Fort Hunt [19:52], were you -- were you assigned -- had you -- did you get assigned somewhere else, or were you [20:00] -- did you request another assignment somewhere?

AT: I got orders -- I got orders to report to the Admiralty in London [20:06]. And I think the - - they had the phrase FAGTRANS [20:14], first available government transportation, which turned out to be a whacking great carrier. Holy smoke. Well, I went up to New York, got aboard this carrier, and the captain came out and had us out on the fo'c's'le somewhere or underneath under the lift, or maybe it was on the flag deck, and he was up above us. And he looked down at me and says, "Say, the officer with the white cover-up, get back to your quarters and change into blue." So, I had my white hat on, and all these guys were in winter blue. And we all went back [21:00] to this sacks [phonetic] that we'd been assigned and took out across the Atlantic Ocean at flank speed with no protection whatsoever. The deck was loaded with -- it didn't have a squadron on board. It had plane after plane after plane after plane, and I had -- I was assigned a job, and I had to go out

with one of the sponsons. You know, the sponsons are the bulges in the side of the ship on deck. Now, I would stand there and see that soldiers did not throw gum wrappers over the sides because submarines would look for such things. And I thought that was pretty dumb, but I guess it's useful. But I -- my sack [22:00] was right underneath what I assume was sloshing back and forth, was the greatest high-test aviation gas you ever saw in your life. And that's what -- that's when I wanted to go up on the deck and walk around in the middle of the night, but I didn't because I figured -- no. Stand in your way.

INT: Real quick, the last -- one of the last questions that I have about Fort Hunt [22:30] is

when you were there, did you know it as Fort Hunt? Did you know it as another name?

AT: Well, I've never heard any other name.

INT: Okay. Had you ever heard the term P.O. Box 1142 [22:41]?

AT: No.

INT: No? Okay. So, you knew it as -- so you -- so when you were there, you were assigned to the Fort Hunt [22:49], Virginia?

AT: Yeah, that was it -- as far as I knew, yeah.

INT: Okay. Vince or Sam, do you have any other specific-to-Fort Hunt questions [23:00]?

INT: And this goes back to objectives for questioning. You obviously had goals. You had some idea. Someone would brief you, like --

AT: Oh, yeah. Right.

INT: -- in terms of what they wanted you to get from this prisoner. How did you transfer that intelligence if you didn't write it down? Did you verbally transfer that to someone else?

AT: Well, I think -- I don't remember any piece of paper that said, "Be sure to look after -- for torpedo in -- say, Number 7." But I do remember that -- those words. But I think these

all must have been oral.

INT: Okay. And any speculation as to why you had such a short assignment? You came in, you interrogated one officer, Klaus [24:00]. Any reason --

AT: Why I stepped out?

INT: -- why you came in so quick? Did they have a specific assignment for you? They wanted you to accomplish it and then they sent you to the next assignment?

AT: Well, I don't know whether accomplish it, but I think -- I can't imagine. You know, you didn't wonder about these things, especially. No, and we -- let's see. In between there somehow, there was some marching and counter-marching somewhere out on Long Island [24:39] with, I think, other Navy -- other Naval officers had gone up to someplace in New York -- New York City [24:47] for a short course of some sort of intelligence, but I didn't go to that. And I'd got them all either in London [24:58] or in Normandy [24:59] or somewhere [25:00].

INT: And you were sent alone to Fort Hunt [25:01], or were you sent with a small contingent?

INT: Did you -- you mentioned you were staying in the Washington [25:10] area going down. Did you -- were you assigned a government car or anything like that? How did you get to Fort Hunt [25:17] each day?

AT: Well, I'd go on a bus to such-and-such a place, and I think I was picked up in a -- in a -- not a squad car and not a jeep, but similar.

INT: I have a similar question. I'm just trying to -- I'm trying to understand sort of a summary of your Naval career. You were in Chicago [25:40] after the war began. You were -- came from Germany back to Chicago.

AT: Chicago, and I worked for the AP [25:51] because I worked for the AP in Berlin [25:53].

INT: Right. And then instead of being drafted, you decided to – a recruiting station for the Navy [26:00]. How long were you in the Navy?

AT: Well, I was in the Navy until 1946 because I went out to Bikini [26:07] to see the atom bombs go off.

INT: During that time, when you went into the recruitment office, you sort of pitched yourself as a --

AT: Oh, yeah. I came in, I said, "Lookit, lookit, Buddy, you want somebody to interrogate prisoners? I'm your boy."

INT: So, they bought that? They sort of signed you up as an interrogator?

AT: Well, they didn't say that. But it must have gone down in commanding officer's --

INT: So, you spent the entire war, basically, interrogating prisoners?

AT: Oh, yeah; well, or as an interpreter at one time. Up in Flensburg where the [unintelligible] were, I was not interrogating, but [27:00] well, one time I took care of Walter (Hellmuth) [27:03] to -- the commander of our group there said, "Herr Walter" -- we had the Walter-Werke [27:11] and the H2O2 submarine and all that sort of stuff -- "wants to visit his parents. Would you take him down?" And I was one of the German speakers, and I said sure, sure. And we're going up to his parents' for tea. Well, number one, he comes out of the Walter-Werke [27:30] and he said, "Oh, incidentally, I got a -- you know, you could get from the Fuhrer [27:41] either an L command or a Z command, [speaks German] -- destroy your facility -- L for [German] [28:00] so you could put it together again." He said, "I got a Z command." So, he said -- he didn't say anything about not microfilming all of the papers, which he did. And he said, "And, well, funniest thing, the Royal Marines [28:23] got here before I could destroy the place." So, here's a

wonderful big thing about a submarine [unintelligible]. Well, anyway, so he came up [unintelligible], and he saw pillowcases and sheets and everything hanging out of the windows on the way to his parents', and he said, "What in the world is that?" I said, "Herr Walter, they have surrendered. The war is over." He had expected we would [29:00] sort of schlep up with them and fight the Russians. But anyway, so we went to his place, he had tea, come back. Well now, along with this, to his parents, he said, "Do you mind if I take along my dienstmann, my servant?" I said, "No." So, as we crossed the crossroads, he said, "Well, this fellow wants to get out here." "Fine." Go on to his parents, parents had tea, come back. At the crossroads, we pick up this guy. He was covered in coal dust, and he had five canisters about this tall, about this big, had to be dropped under the hood of the jeep. And I didn't say anything, and we were going along. And Walter (Hellmuth) [29:50] said, "Do you see that fellow back there?" "Yeah, I see him." He said, "He's been digging in a coal pile." And he said, "Inside [30:00] those canisters are all the microfilm papers of the Walter-Werke [30:08]" And the minute we got back to [unintelligible], I told the captain that -- what that was. So, they got him off to America, so fast it makes your head spin. And we didn't want the Russians coming in and getting it --

INT: All right, sure. I think we'll take another quick break because we need to change tapes again. And what we'll probably try to do is start to wrap up your last few minutes. It sounds like you must --

INT: Actually, I have a couple of more related questions.

INT: Yeah, I definitely --

[End of Tape 2A]

[Beginning of Tape 2B]

INT: As an interrogator during World War II [00:08], did that relate at all to what you did with the Central Intelligence Agency [00:10]?

AT: Did it relate?

INT: Yeah.

INT: Before you answer, think about your answer while we -- I have a couple questions before we continue.

AT: Do you have anything about relate --

INT: We can come back to that.

INT: We were talking about World War II [00:30].

AT: Yeah.

INT: You spent most of the war interrogating prisoners of war [00:34] at that -- at that point. How many -- were they all naval men? Either naval seamen or officers of --

AT: Well, just --

INT: It's [unintelligible]? Sorry [laughs].

AT: turn on the machine for number one. So were they all officers or whatever [01:00]? They were whatever you could find. Officers were pretty rare. I remember.

INT: But were they all in the Navy? Were they all --

AT: Oh, we talked to navy people. I mean, it's --they'd sift them out, of course they're plenty of Army interrogators to do their business.

INT: So if you had to guess, during the course of World War II [01:20], how many people do you think you interrogated during the course of the war? You said you had --

AT: Not very many. Not very many. I mean, one wasn't thinking about it in those terms that

I know. Maybe -- well, you were talking to people. The word interrogating sounds pretty formal. Talking to these guys -- maybe 50. This is right out of fresh air. I'm making it up maybe. That's not very many. I didn't work [02:00] -- didn't work very hard, did I?

INT: No, I'm just trying to understand your background. What kind of training did you receive to -- I mean, you were in the news. You were in the news business, so you were collecting your information from people in general. Is that how you got your training to this -- to get information from these POWs [02:19]? How did you -- how were you trained to get information from? What techniques were you taught?

AT: Weren't taught -- we weren't taught anything, any of it. Just if you didn't -- you got to make them up yourself, you know? This business of sitting there with the cards in your lap -- well I don't know that anybody told us this, but they sent us the cards and we used them.

INT: Did you do extensive preparations when you were questioning people? Or did you know anything about them besides --

AT: When somebody would come in -- somebody would be brought in and find out [03:00], "Oh, you're Olander Frederick Schwartz [phonetic]? Oh, let's see, let's see, let's see. Oh, what did you do? Oh, you were in the engine room. Oh, well, that's pretty dull, isn't it?" And so on and so forth. And try to find a -- did you -- "Oh, when did you attend, as I say, the torpedo shoot up [phonetic]?" Maybe he didn't, maybe he did. Maybe he says he did. Maybe he didn't. But -- we -- it wasn't sort of pointless rambling. We were aiming at something. Aiming at what we had told was needed.

INT: Did you have the impression that prisoners were lying to you or trying to deceive you?

AT: Did I ever get in touch --

INT: No, did you ever get that impression during an interrogation or an interview? Could you tell if they were trying to pull your leg or did they seem to be pretty [04:00] straightforward most of the time?

AT: Well, I mean these guys were mostly enlisted men and they -- they'd been pulled out of the water and getting as complicated as trying to fool us -- an American Naval Officer, I don't know. I don't think they were doing that.

INT: Do you feel like you got -- there was the one case -- let's see -- was the information that you got useful? I mean do you --

AT: Truthful. Truthful.

INT: And useful.

AT: Oh, useful. Well, I never had anybody say, "That's lousy."

INT: So you never really got very much feedback one way or another, whether --

AT: No, why would they have a feedback? No, I mean, they didn't at any rate.

INT: Okay Vince, if you have questions [05:00].

INT: I think that's pretty much everything. Just any recollections you have of Klaus [05:07]. Did he seem to have a mutual respect for you? Was he quiet? Did he seem to be forthcoming or withholding?

AT: Oh no, he just -- I -- just as we're talking here, we were talking about the good old days on the -- on the Guerilla [05:24]. And let me tell you a story about the Luftstreitkräfte [05:27] [phonetic] and Goebbels [05:30]. Well, as I say, the Navy was not exactly pro-Nazi [05:34], au contraire.

INT: If that's -- did you feel -- did you find -- what do you think worked best in your

interrogations? What seemed -- it seemed like you were trying to make friends with them? Or you mentioned that you never physically abused them.

AT: No.

INT: What tended to work well in [06:00] your --

AT: Well, we thought just talking to them and knowing certain things, that they were maybe astonished that we knew. Or giving them the impression that we knew them. Now, if I say -- one time -- one time I was sitting in my office in London [06:22] and I got a telephone call that said so and so of the parachute regiment wants to come over and talk to you. Oh my God, they both want me to jump into France [06:35]. And [laughs], he came over, some parachute officer, and he wanted to know about these -- oh, he came in, he says, "I understand you know more about the whore houses in France [06:52] than anybody [laughs]. I said, "Well, who am I -- who am I to brag [07:00]?" And [laughs] he wanted something about an area which somebody was going to jump into and wanted to know whether we knew. I, in my office, and the Admiral. I had hoped to move down to the -- to the Fortress of Lorient [07:26], because the commanding officer of the Fortress of Lorient was a naval officer who was the father of a German lady friend of mine. And I spotted him once when she and I were at the opera. And she said, "There's my father." And she shot off down -- we were upstairs; she shot -- incidentally Keitel [07:53], German General Keitel, had a box there. And General Keitel was about [08:00] six feet four and he had a daughter who was about six feet four. Well, the door was open on this little box where they were, and out came three German officers about six feet five, and the six feet four daughter, [laughs] and General Keitel [08:19]. Well, anyway, she shot down there. Said, "There's my father." Went down there, came back, and told me

about it. They were -- he -- she -- he had four wives or something like that. Well, he was Commander at Lorient [08:34]. I was just aching to go down there. I said, "Oh, well, Commander Deterra [08:41] [phonetic] from the U-19 World War I, now, what's this business of four wives? Why are you" -- everything that she told me. They took that bum out of there before we could get down there.

INT: [laughs]

AT: Well, anyway [09:00].

INT: So, with the remaining few minutes that we have, it's -- is there anything else about your experiences specifically related to World War II [09:11] and your experiences in Normandy [09:14] and France [09:15] and Germany [09:16] that you'd like to relay to us?

AT: When I was part of the NAVTEC MIS-EU, the Naval Technical Mission in Europe [09:36], going up to Brockeswalde. We were coming along the coast there -- Belgium [09:50], oh, Belgium? Well, we stayed in the barn of a castle that had been bombed and we met the family -- a duke's family, they were [10:00] living in the gatehouse. And umpty-ump years later -- in Belgium, umpty-ump years later my daughter was going to Peace Corps to build to the Belgian Congo [10:16]. And I wrote to that family, "Duke So and So, at such and such castle, Belgium [10:24]." And I said, "Do you remember the group of officers who walked -- came in on you one night and had a little chat?" She wrote back and said, "Oh, I remember them. Especially Captain Wheeler [10:39] [phonetic]. That was a real Marine friend of mine [laughs]." And she remembered him all these years. Well I said, "My daughter is going to Belgian Congo [10:48]. Is there anybody there you could recommend to me?" She said, "Your daughter will be met by my brother at such and such airport [11:00]." I mean, leaping like that -- well, anyway,

going up to the German Brockeswalde [phonetic], I passed the SS -- the SS New York [11:22]. It was the German line that I'd come over to Europe on in 1938, in that very ship, and it was upside down in the harbor. That's what I remember.

INT: So, we spoke about this a little bit earlier. But when the war ended, you then in 1946 went on that German cruiser [11:53], correct? Which you went on over to the Guinea Peninsula [11:55]?

AT: Well, yes. We were -- because the German cruiser was to be [12:00] a target ship.

INT: Right. Right.

AT: And the Japanese aircraft carrier went down and the American cruiser went down and this went down and that went down and the Prinz Eugen [12:12] just sat there with -- they didn't leave humans aboard, but they left some animals topside on the -- on the deck, which was made of -- well, anyway, it was a fine deck. So, then they took it to -- they took it to Kwajalein Atoll. But I was back with the Associated Press [12:40] by this time and all of a sudden my city editor turns to me and says, "Say, a shipmate of yours is down at the Field Museum." I said, "A shipmate of mine?" And he said, "Yes, from the Prinz Eugen [12:53]." I said, "Really?" He said, "Yes, I want you to go down and interview him and take a photographer with you [13:00]." Well, it was a goat.

[laughter]

And I went there and I said, "What did you think of the war -- what did you think of the war?" "Bah!" The guy takes a picture of us. And they put it out on all the AP wire, and said, "Our reporter is the one on the left with the discharge button in his button hole."

INT: I wonder how hazardous that was, if there was any radiation on the goat.

AT: I -- 10 or so years later, I wrote into the arresting department of the United States

government and I said, "I was 10 miles upwind at the ground -- at the water explosion, and I was 20 miles up wind at the air explosion. What sort of radiation did I get?" They sent me one of those things with the holes along the side that jump out and out and out and out. It came [14:00] exposure 0.02 [unintelligible]. But they knew. Well, you know what happened to the Prinz Eugen [14:14]? They went down to Kwajalein Harbor and there it was, a very nice, old heavy cruiser. And some swabby who was down the bottom there was supposed to turn on the pumps but didn't. And the thing went over like this. And it's down there in Kwajalein Atoll with its rudder and propellers sitting up.

INT: And so after the war you went into -- you spoke a bit earlier about being the -- your fellowship. And then in 1953, you were recruited essentially by the CIA [14:57]? You mentioned you wanted to go and travel --

AT: I [15:00] went over and said, "Here I am, take me."

INT: And so, if you'd like to, briefly could you discuss how long you were with CIA [15:10] and --

AT: Oh, I was with the CIA as a -- as a case officer for 26 years. And I served overseas in Africa [15:21], in Europe [15:23], in India [15:24], back here and Germany [15:27] again. And then I was assistant to the director. And that was supposed to be the spokesman, but I called myself the "spooks-man." And the newspaper men in town loved that, but that didn't mean that they got anything from me. I thought it was a marvelous job. You sit there all the time and don't say a thing and they send you the check at the end of the month. It was marvelous.

[laughter]

INT: And that was for Director Bush [16:00]?

AT: No, Bush was the one who said that he had a fellow in the White House who spoke nine languages that he thought ought to be in this slot -- my slot. And I said, "You know, every time they change the director, I reach for my hat before I go back to Fieldton [phonetic]." And I said, "I think you ought to have a PR guy there." I said, "I'm not a PR guy really. You ought to have a PR guy." He said, "I got this fellow there." I met him, well the guy lasted about, you know, a couple of months, and he went somewhere else." But in the meantime -- in the meantime I was Chief of Base -- Chief of Base in Berlin [16:37] again, or back in Berlin I was Chief of Base. And I had left the work -- to us, it's a famous exit, Checkpoint Charlie [16:48]. Down on my door you'll see a miniature model of the Checkpoint Charlie. And I had a camera. Every chief had the same camera up there focused [17:00] on Checkpoint Charlie [17:02] with a receiver, television-looking thing, to see if there was anything interesting going on. Well, the entire time I was there, nothing happened [laughs]. It was terrible. But, we went -- after the war, I inquired of the -- after -- no, after Germany [17:24] combined with west -- East Germany, they had a special office for the papers of East Germany [17:33]. And I inquired about mine and I got one. And it told about me and they gave me a *deckname* -- I mean a cover name and he said -- and so and so went in. And he went up to the Soviet Memorial and he looked at the Soviet Memorial. Then he went down at the opera house. Then he came back to Soviet Memorial. And then he came down the same street [18:00], once more going the wrong way on a one-way street.

[laughter]

And then the time I took five children over there. They all had these phony names for them. So that was -- that was living again in Germany [18:22].

INT: The rarity -- but, I thought I would ask anyways. Any documents, orders, paperwork, photos relative to Fort Hunt [18:30]?

AT: No.

INT: No.

AT: Never had any. There was much business of let's not talk about things.

INT: Did they tell you specifically when you were at Fort Hunt [18:46] and afterwards not to share any of that or were they just --
[talking simultaneously]

AT: No. I mean, it's just that's part of the act. I mean, if you're naval joes [phonetic], you're not going around saying, "Hey, last night I really had a marvelous time with these birds down in Fort Hunt [19:00], you know, they were talking all over the place." No. None of that.

INT: Any other questions? Anything else that you think we've missed or anything else that you'd like to add?

AT: No, I don't think so.

INT: Okay.

AT: I think I've overloaded you.

INT: No, this is -- this has been --

AT: [laughs]

INT: Is there a way to get a group photo with you? Is your wife available to take a photograph of us or?

AT: Yeah, if you want to, I'll ask her. She may be taking a snooze, though.

INT: Oh, well, then please don't interrupt her. We can actually send out a timer. We did this

with Rudy Pins, so maybe we can call it quits. Yeah, sure. And I'll get this all set up.

And while we're getting ready to take the picture and taking these down, I have to ask -- I just recently read over my summer vacation at the beach -- what I [20:00] thought was a pretty fantastic book about being a World War II [20:03] correspondent and that was Andy Rooney's book. Have you ever heard of --

[talking simultaneously]

AT: Oh, I know Andy Rooney by name and --

INT: Something I have to get from my car.

AT: And I think that he would have interesting humor, just the same [phonetic].

INT: If you haven't read it, I thought his book was very, very well written from someone, you know, his perspective going and thinking that he could stay out of the war. He even considered being a conscientious objector and really not having a very pleasant opinion of the military or anything like that. And then after what he went through as a correspondent being in Europe and then actually going through and seeing the camps at the end of the war, you know, completely changed his opinion of things.

AT: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

INT: I thought it was a very, very well written, typical Andy Rooney style humorous sort of book [21:00], so highly recommend that. And then I have to ask with career with the CIA [21:04], have you heard -- I'm sure it's greatly fictionalized, there's a new movie coming out on the birth of the CIA [21:12] and it's got all the big shots in it. Robert De Niro and what's the famous -- Matt -- he was in Saving Private Ryan and -- no, maybe -- anyhow, a bunch of famous actors. It's on the birth of the CIA [21:30]. The CIA in the '50s and the '60s.

AT: Oh really?

INT: It's coming out in theaters in a few months or so. You might get a kick out of it from [unintelligible] perspective.

AT: Maybe we can write a letter denouncing it [laughs]. [22:00]

INT: I'm going to give you something, appreciation of you taking the time.

AT: Oh my goodness. Oh my god. Oh, that's clever. Now, that is an iron on, yeah. And this too.

INT: Sam, I'm going to let you --

AT: See, I [unintelligible] that. Because what this says -- see, what's it say?

INT: Mosby Heritage --

AT: Area.

INT: -- area.

AT: Yeah. Well, now that's -- [unintelligible] the confederate rig, they assembled three miles down the road here.

INT: Away from [unintelligible] [23:00]?

AT: And so I like to wear that and --
[talking simultaneously]

INT: Is there a marker for that spot?
[end of transcript]

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<http://uboat.net/men/bargsten.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellmuth_Walter

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