Tape two, side one:

NP: ...two, July the 9th, 1996. This is Natalie Packel, interviewing Mr. Roger Bryan. [tape off then on] Mr. Bryan, would you continue to describe your life in Australia?

RB: In Australia. Now, as far as Australia is concerned, we never got out of the camp except once was an excursion to the Murrumbidgee River, which is nearby.

NP: M-A-R-A-M?

RB: M-U-...

NP: M-U--Muram, bigee, B-I?

RB: B-I-G-E-E. Something [Murrumbidgee]. An aboriginal name, I guess. The river, that was exhilarating because it was a change of scenery and we could swim in the river and there were eucalyptus trees on either side of the river. And that was quite an experience. I had various jobs in the camp. At one time I was a gardener for the Australian commander, his house, around his house. And that was another opportunity to get out of the camp. Then, in the camp, I was a mess orderly at one time. Then I was a medical assistant, somewhere, as a nurse, a male nurse sometimes. Then I had a job in the kitchen helping. As a matter of fact, apart from the excellent camp university that developed, because we had many doctors and scientists and lawyers among us, there were some excellent cooks and bak- [tape off then on]

NP: And so there were excellent cooks and bakers.

RB: Yes, and that benefited us. And we had good chemists too. Because we, with all the load of mutton, they had a lot of fat. And he managed to get some chemicals and made soap out of the sheep's fat, which helped. It--the activities--but the most important activities were, of course, the camp university. And I took some English classes there. And a couple of poems I still remember to this day that I...

NP: Poems?

RB: Poems, yes.

NP: Oh.

RB: One by Milton on his blindness. I still remember it fully. And Longfellow, which I do remember as a young fellow. Well, anyhow, that, and I remember lectures by an Austrian, Doctor Eirich. He was an atomic scientist.

NP: Doctor...

RB: Eirich.

NP: I-R-I-S-H?

RB: No.

NP: I-...

RB: E-I-...

NP: E-I-...

RB: R-...

NP: Yes.

RB: I-C-H.

NP: Eirich. He was an atomic scientist?

RB: He was an atomic scientist. We had a Doctor Wolf, he was a chemist. We had industrialists. We had...

NP: And the countries of their origin, do you know? Dr. Wolf, Dr. Eirich?

RB: Germany, Germany.

NP: Germany.

RB: No, Eirich is Austrian. I think he's still around. I'm not sure. And that helped a lot, because mail was terrible in the beginning and we were--had a pro forma sheet only to use, "don't write between the lines." And certain things to add and certain were limited in how much you could write and how often you could write. That changed eventually and one day, or it was after several weeks I think, we got mail in. And I got...

NP: Did you hear from your brother?

RB: Eventually. I got mail from England from, actually the friend of Louisa Howey's who got me into the Boy Scouts. He wrote me that Louisa died in an air raid. The house where we lived was bombed with a direct hit. And that was tough to take at the time because we'd gotten pretty close.

NP: It was a loss for you.

RB: Yeah.

NP: And so this was in 19-...

RB: It so happens that I had everything. I still had there and photographic equipment and I lost it of course with the house. And the raids were going on--on London. We heard what the situation was there. About Germany, of course, we didn't hear anything. I heard from my brother directly or, I don't know whether he sent me on any letters that my mother had written to him, but she was always concerned about me, the "*Das Kind*," the child.

NP: Of course. And your grandmother at that time?

RB: They, I knew, I guess I must have heard it through my brother. They had put her in an old age home in Berlin. But she died there eventually. I don't know any details or what.

NP: The Archive at Gratz College has a *Gedenkbuch*...

RB: Yes?

NP: Which took about 20 years to compile. They are, listed in there are names of families that lived in all parts of Germany and what eventually happened to them. Some are--their whereabouts are unknown, but if they perished or where they were transported, that's all listed. If that might be of any help to you in any way...

RB: Well, it may be worth checking in. The German government asked us to, I mean they gave all those [the camp University], the Berlin government anyway, wherever you originated, invited us in. Lore, how long, what year was it? Oh, she isn't there, makes no difference. Anyhow, it must have been eight, nine years ago--I can check it--to come.

The first year we turned them down. We didn't want to go. We didn't want to. They wrote again the following year, and we said, "Look, let's go. And at least I can do the cemetery and see what..." And then we did. And it's...

NP: What year was this in?

RB: About eight years...

NP: About eight years, oh...

RB: About eight, yeah. In the eighties, somewhere, well, maybe in, I can...

NP: Were there any neighbors that you knew?

RB: No. No, I'll tell you something else that's, I mean, at other times before that actually when I , well what--or do you want to continue chronologically?

NP: Well, perhaps we'll backtrack.

RB: You want to go on?

NP: Yes, that would be good. That would be good. And so you were at the...

RB: O.K.

NP: University.

RB: I took on and off in case it, yeah, it can be relaxed. I regret actually that I didn't spend more time in that way. And we get lazy and we'd play around with the kids. And they had football teams and soccer teams rather, there, and whatnot, and shows, which were produced and actually written in the camp by someone there.

NP: What were, do you remember some of the...

RB: Ray Martin was one of the guys that's well-known.

NP: A producer.

RB: Yeah, he was a producer and I guess he was an actor later on, too, and a movie director.

NP: Do you remember the name of some of the shows, or...

RB: Yeah, I, and they wrote poems, a lot of poetry were written in their hey days or gay days and. actually making fun of the situation. But it was very, some very good pianists we had there and also the officers, the Australian officers were invited and they came and enjoyed it. And I mean the people, the internees knew how to make it livable conditions. Otherwise, the food improved, and well, they couldn't improve the weather, but anyhow it was, anyhow people wanted to get out and occasionally one or two managed to get-- make use of a visa that they had or whatever. And the transport eventually, then there came word that you may be allowed to join the British Army, the Pioneer Corps, and that's one way of getting back to Britain, which was being bombed at that time. So I considered, I didn't, I applied only because I wanted to get out in the worst way, whatever plan it was. And there, one small transport, a few left, and one was sunk, with a loss of life. I don't know if I can find out the details. But ours was the *Sterling Castle*, a British ship, eventually. And this time, no barbed wire. And we...

NP: Excuse me. If I may...

RB: Yes.

NP: Back up a little. Before you left, or all of the time that you were in the camp in Australia, did anyone come from the community?

RB: Yes.

NP: To--they did, to...

RB: We had some visit-...

NP: Organize?

RB: Well, the first one...

NP: Well, did you hear of, oh, go ahead.

RB: The first one I remember was a Reverend Twig. He was non-Jewish, of course.

NP: Mmm hmm.

RB: And he was also a Boy Scout leader. And he, therefore, he talked to us and he, I believe he gave us, sent us some items which we wanted in the end, or needed. And I personally didn't see any other from the Jewish community. Funny thing happened, it was known, of course, to the Jews in Melbourne and Sydney. And in the Melbourne community, eventually, I got a letter from Ilse Dreyfus.

NP: Oh yes.

RB: From Berlin. Ilse, L--Ilse, E-L-S-E.

NP: Oh E-L.

RB: No.

NP: That's I-L.

RB: No, no, that's right, I-L-S-E, sorry.

NP: All right. Here we go. That's right.

RB: Dreyfus. And she said that, I believe that she saw my name on the list of internees that they had at the community center or whatever. And is there anything that she could do for me? But this Dreyfus was a member of the same dancing school I attended in Berlin when we went dancing. You know, ballroom dancing. And it was really funny. I never saw her, and I wrote back and I thanked her, I believe, and that I didn't need anything. And I lost contact with her. But it was rather--I don't know what year I really took dancing school. It must have been in '37, '38.

NP: But bef--ORT, the organization, ORT...

RB: Yes?

NP: Or HIAS, Joint Distribution Committee, were they in contact with...

RB: I believe eventually but...

NP: Not at that point.

RB: Not with me personally. I had no...

NP: I see.

RB: Contact with--they had certain--well they used to, the British government when they sent a major in--who happened to be Jewish too--oh, what's his name? I can look it up too. I have it on record [Major Julian Layton].

NP: It's all right.

RB: And he got things moving. And especially with the court, we took them to court and they got court-martials, the officers, from the *Dunera* ship.

NP: Who took them to court?

RB: Well, the British government, but it took a long time. And we, lawyers, got together and wrote a long detailed report about the treatment. And one day, in fact we got delivery, luggage, to the camp. It was all torn cases and most of the stuff, and no valuables. Of course, they were missing. It's pretty rough the way it was. And...

NP: Could you describe your next journey?

RB: Yes, well, that's-- that only took five weeks back to England. We went through the Panama Canal, a different route, through the Panama Canal then, and, well, we were free on board, aboard ship. Not FOB. And that was, we were over 150 of us or so. And we got to England and went to Ilfracombe in Devon.

NP: I-L...

RB: F-...

NP: F-R-E?

RB: No, F-R-A.

NP: F-R-A...

RB: C-O-M-B-E.

NP: M-B-E, in Devon.

RB: Yeah.

NP: Right.

RB: In the south of England. And then there we, there was an induction center and training for about four weeks for the British Army, for the non-combatant unit, the Pioneer Corps, which had, other than the Jewish refugees that they finally admitted, they were the dregs of the army. I, in fact, when I was, my first station was to Glasgow, Scotland. And the sergeant we had there, who was a Scotsman, and he had been in the trash disposal unit for the city of Paisley, I think, which is just outside of Glasgow. So that's the account. He wasn't a bad guy, but not a brain surgeon. And...

NP: And...

RB: Yeah?

NP: Where, were you shipped somewhere then or what were your duties at this point?

RB: There in Scotland, in the Pioneer Corps, we were employed mostly in building camps, army camps, erecting huts. And most of our job, most of the time, was wheeling concrete and making, I mean, tough, very tiring, from morning to night and [unclear] machines. And also building them and eventually I got a--I passed a test for carpentry, which gave me a little extra pay--good. And then we had a job in town to paint some [unclear] hall somewhere in town. And I went out with that group but I, eventually, I made lunch. Well, lunch, made tea, at the canteen there. The Salvation Army had a

canteen and we got friendly and I ended up in--making three-course meals for our guys. So that I didn't have to paint then. That lasted a while. And then we moved. In the meantime, the first night, the first weekend, we went to the Jewish Institute in Glasgow, who had, I guess it was a Sunday, for our boys in the forces, you know, entertainers, the food and drink and the dance. And then I said to a friend of mine, "I'm gonna dance with her." That was it!

NP: The rest is history!

RB: Well, the funny thing is my wife, later she became my wife, said to her girlfriend there, "Oh yes, I danced with one of the boys that came just back from Australia," meaning, came from Australia, not knowing my history, my background, which we cleared up afterwards. And...

NP: Could you describe the Jewish community in Glasgow? Or...

RB: Well that, yeah, that was a fairly large community, a few thousand, and several synagogues and I got into that after I got out of the army, in the army, because in photography, I eventually with a partner, we started a firm there later.

NP: If I may back up.

RB: Yeah.

NP: When were you out of the army, with the British?

RB: That took a long time.

NP: It did.

RB: Yes. I went from there--we had several stations in different places in England. In fact, I came back to Glasgow in order to get married and got a special leave in September, '43. And on my wife's 21st birthday. I thought you may be interested to know I was 22, in uniform, and we had three *rabbonim*. One nice old man with a gray beard, Rabbi Atlas, and one British Army...

NP: Chaplain?

RB: Chaplain.

NP: Chaplain.

RB: Chaplain, and one Polish army chaplain. I don't know why he was there. Somebody with him.

NP: Any names that you might remember?

RB: Not the others, no, no. I don't remember any of those names. My, oh well, it's a funny incident if you want, are interested. My--Lore's uncle, that's her reason for being in Glasgow...

NP: Oh.

RB: She was evacuated from Liverpool where she lived. It was a protected area near the ocean, so she went to live with the uncle in Glasgow and he arranged more or less the wedding, who was there. And he told me, "It's a good idea if you learn the *Harae-at-Mekudeshet-Lee*," you know, the vows.

NP: Right.

RB: So I did. I didn't know much about it. And when we stood under the *chuppah* [traditional wedding canopy]and Rabbi Atlas started *Harae-at*, I continued, instead of waiting to repeat, I said the whole *Harae-at-Mekudeshet-Lee*. I know it now! And he turned to one of the other rabbis and he said, "A *Gelernter* [Yiddish for a learned man]?" Which I guess you know what it means.

NP: Yes, yes.

RB: And it was embarrassing in a way, but a good laugh afterwards.

NP: And...

RB: That was at a kosher hotel in Glasgow.

NP: In Glasgow.

RB: In Glasgow, the Queen Hotel in Glasgow, in the--it doesn't exist anymore. In the Jewish section, like Whitechapel in London. This was the Gorbals in Glasgow.

NP: What was it? What did you...

RB: Gorbals, the Gorbals is the district.

NP: Oh, O.K. And can you spell that?

RB: G-O-R-B-A-L-S.

NP: The Gorbals. O.K., it was a district, right?

RB: Yeah, a district in Glasgow, yeah.

NP: O.K., and so you were married and, but still in the service.

RB: Sure, after that we went for a honeymoon to London. Never mind the bombs...

NP: Yes.

RB: That was the V-2 at that, eh, the V-1 at the time, which they called the doodlebugs. The--every one, and in fact we were at the Cumberland Hotel and there was air raid alarm and we stood as suggested, by others. We stood in the doorway of a closet. And the thing came down and shattered several windows all over but otherwise was not much harm done and, well, you just carry on. That's your--we always considered how it must have hit somebody else. And so you carry on. That was the general attitude at that time.

NP: And where did you live after that?

RB: Well, I was in the army.

NP: Well, yes.

RB: I was still in the army and well, certain, I was transferred to Oxford, I was stationed, which I liked very much, with the--so Lore on the phone said, "This looks very permanent here," and so she came down and got a job in an ammunitions factory and worked on airplanes or whatever it was. But a couple of weeks later we were shifted down to the south of England. That was D-Day then.

NP: Yes.

RB: They went across and we were ready in the embarkation center and from the embarkation center I got a phone call to report to the orderly room I am to go to London

and report to GHQ Second Echelon, Prisoner of War Section. When I got there the Major or whatever he was said, "Oh, I'm glad to see you. And we had the intention of starting a Photostat section for the War Office here but that's been scratched since then. So since we see you're a linguist we can make use of you in the enemy Prisoner of War Section here." Which, by then I stayed in London all through...

NP: How many languages did you speak?

RB: Well, only--I speak only German and English, some French. And very little Spanish. [chuckles] So, that I didn't mind. I mean we had the air raids and all that. You get, it's amazing how you get used to it. Because you become fatalistic, you know, so that's, eventually--then this unit went to Belgium. We were transferred to Belgium and to Brussels. The people, the unit in Brussels, from there--it was a documentation unit really--from there we went to Louvain. When I was sent to Louvain...

NP: L--how do you spell that?

RB: L-O-U-V-A-I-N. That's...

NP: In France or...

RB: A few miles, no, a few miles from Brussels.

NP: It's still in Belgium.

RB: Yeah, a few miles from Brussels. That was a Prisoner of War camp. Well, I, actually I--that's where it was I heard that they needed interpreters [unclear]. And that carried the rank of Staff Sergeant, so I was promoted and was in the Prisoner of War. There are two incidents of interest. First of all, there were about four-and-a-half thousand prisoners there, all mixed Germans. And then one day I was supposed to address the crowd and give them instructions about something. And I was going up on the podium. But I picked a German translator, you know. And he, he said, "You tell them. They'll not listen to me." He said, "If I think," I didn't really want these bastards [chuckles], to know. And that worked out fine, but they had work groups that worked, went outside the camp to, whatever they were told to do. And they marched them back about 4:00 or 5:00 in the afternoon. And I stood outside my office at that time. And one of those from the ranks shouted, "Britzmann!" So I told the corporal, "Take the man's name and tell him to report to my office," which he did. And eventually the guy comes, a big strapping fellow, stood to attention and I said, I told him to relax. And he said, "I am very"--"Well," I said, I asked him, "Well what were you shouting about when you were marching in there?" He said, "I'm very sorry. I'm very sorry. I should have known better. But it's you, it's you, isn't it?" That was the guy who sat in high school the last two years next to me.

NP: Oh!

RB: And then, so we had a little talk. He told me so many got killed, you know, people who were from our class got killed at the eastern front or so, you know, which didn't move me too much I told him. And then he told, I asked him if he needed anything and I got him a shaver and some toothpaste or whatever it was. And I never saw him again after

that. He happened to be a decent guy, I remembered. He gave me that little, a few minutes between...

NP: [Unclear.]

RB: Getting his name and realizing who he was, I remembered that he was one of the last to join the Hitler Youth in that class. And that was '36, about eight years before that, you know, seven or eight years. And so that was it. Another coincidence, I write this in my book about that, this, I hitchhiked once to, or tried to hitchhike to Brussels, from Louvain. And stood there and a jeep, a GI jeep, picked me up. And we got talking and I noticed he had a bit of a German accent. And I asked him about where he came from. Anyhow, he said, "From Plauen."

NP: Oh.

RB: So I told him my wife came from there and said what her name was. Ah! Manfred her brother was his best friend there for many years.

NP: Oh, what a coincidence.

RB: And I told her about the coincidence and well, I never saw him again either. So, after that I, stop me if you...

NP: No, that's all right.

RB: Want to cut it short.

NP: The names of these two fellows that...

RB: Yeah, that...

NP: One was...

RB: That was *Oberstabsfeldwebel*, that sergeant major.

NP: Ober--F-E-L-D?

RB: Stab, S-T-A-B.

NP: Ober-...

RB: Stab-...

NP: S-T-A-B.

RB: E-A-B, S--F-E-L-D.

NP: Ah, F-E-L-D. E-R?

RB: No W-E-B-E-L.

NP: Oberstab-...

RB: B, B, not D.

NP: Oh, B. O.K.

RB: -feldwebel.

NP: I'll re-write this, yes.

RB: Yeah, you know, *Webel*, which means sergeant major. Stuber, Gert Stuber, G--oh I don't know what its name--that's not important. So, this...

NP: So there were two incidents of people that...

RB: Yeah, the other one, the GI, his name was Purilis [phonetic] if you want that, from Plauen. So, [phone ringing] if it's somebody for me let me know. The--I went from there--Yeah, coming out?

NP: Are you all right?

RB: Yeah, I'm fine.

NP: Good. O.K., fine. No I'm...

RB: Now, then I got a transfer to Neuengamme concentration camp.

NP: All right.

RB: I don't know if you ever heard of it.

NP: Yes.

RB: Neuengamme. Do you want it spelled?

NP: N-E-U?

RB: N-E-U. N, no.

NP: N-U?

RB: N--no, no, it was right.

NP: N-E-U.

RB: N-E-U, Neu--E-N-...

NP: G?

RB: G-A-M-M-E, concentration camp.

??: Would you like to join us for lunch? My son is coming right now.

NP: Oh no thank you. I don't want to keep you. No, I'm, this was just perfect, really.

??: Because I set the table in the kitchen...

NP: I don't want to...

??: Thinking you might join us in the kitchen.

NP: I thank you very much. Would you want to stop for lunch? Or are we towards-

Tape two, side two:

NP: And we continue with the interview of Mr. Roger Bryan. [tape off, then on]

RB: Yeah, Neuengamme.

NP: Neuengammen?

RB: Neuengamme, yeah.

NP: -gamme, concentration camp.

RB: Camp, right.

NP: Right.

RB: Well, I was in the intelligence office there, and we had an assortment of Germans from civilians, ordinary civilians, industrialists, prisoners of war, regular army, S.S., party officials, whatever, in there. I don't know the full number. It was well over 1,000. And mainly for interrogation and documentation. And, actually, in the end mainly, mostly wanted, maybe for a request. Somebody says, "Do you have," [door closes] [unclear]. That's my son. [tape off, then on] So, that went on for, in fact, I got friendly with the local *KRIPO [Kriminalpolizei*], which is the criminal police, because we had reason to keep them. We had a theft in our kitchen, I think stores and somebody from local and we went in there and the former S.S. huts, which were about a half a mile away from there...

NP: S.S. what?

RB: Huts, where they lived. They had, you know, the personnel, when it was, this is a former concentration camp...

NP: Yes, yes.

RB: With electrified barbed wire.

NP: Yes.

RB: And so I went along with him on that raid and the women, former girlfriends of--helped us, a German policeman was [unclear] rough, the German way, not like a policeman normally would act in this country. And he got on the--he drew his gun and said, "You whores, S.S. whores, get out of here!" They were lying in bed and under the mattress they found several bags of coffee and [unclear] and they [unclear]. And I also went to the police in Hamburg and made a report there about some of the goings on in the camp. And I got friendly with one of the...

NP: Excuse me, what year was this?

RB: This was 1945, yeah, because--and I remember when I was in Brussels, it was VE day, and VJ day and VE day, you know, Victory in Japan and Victory in Europe, which was riots in, you know, just wild.

NP: What were the streets like? What of the displaced persons? Could you describe?

RB: Where?

NP: After the war, when you were in Germany.

RB: In, well, I didn't see any displaced persons. I was with the German prisoners. And then we had in there all civilians and that. I didn't see any...

NP: People that were coming...

RB: Mainly...

NP: Out of the concentration camps...

RB: No, no.

NP: To resettle?

RB: Concentration camps, no.

NP: You didn't.

RB: But there weren't any...

NP: Not where you were.

RB: DP camps where I was, no, not around there.

NP: All right.

RB: No, not around there. And we were busy with our stuff, you know, and, oh, I remember something. In a funny incident in--we went to Hamburg at night pretty often, in the Sergeants' club or whatever. And I went on a trolley car in Hamburg again. And I stood there and, of course, a British uniform. And I had heard a woman talking to the driver. And I stood there in front, you know, it was crowded. And she said to him, "I," in German, of course, and she thought I, nobody could understand her. I mean, at least I couldn't, you know, and she said, "I think it's terrible how our German girls throw themselves at these Tommies." And she was ready to get off and I said in my best German, I said, "You don't have to worry. Nobody will make a mistake with you." And I got a kick out of it. I don't know what she thought. Anyhow, the--in the camp, I had befriended a guy by the name of Ehrhardt. He was...

NP: Ehrhardt?

RB: Yeah. He lived in Hamburg, some part of Hamburg, and he was an industrialist like a...

NP: How do you spell his name?

RB: E-H-R-H-A-R-D-T, I believe. [tape off, then on] I'll tell you, as short as I can I'll tell you.

NP: Yes.

RB: He gave me a report that the S.S. officers in the camp there, they are still trying to be top dog and control the inmates. And I think they even managed to get a telephone in there somehow. Anyhow, they knew that he was not pro-Nazi. He was anti. We had a group come from Nuremberg to the camp, interviewing the prisoners--that was from the German defense--because it had to be proven that the S.S. was a criminal organization around there. And he was going to give evidence or something. Anyhow, he got word from another friend of his, "Don't stay in your bunk tonight." So he slept somewhere else. In the meantime, his wife in Hamburg got notified by police. They had to tell her that her husband died or--in camp, the night before. In other words, not only did

they intend to string him up, but they got word out to--from the--that he was--but he wasn't, he was very well. And later on, when I went to Nuremberg, to the trials, I got him to appear as a witness.

NP: I see.

RB: [Unclear.] They only would take deposition from there--they didn't, it didn't fit in to have him testify in court actually, but they took depositions from him. And I was very pleased. And that was, it's another coincidence there, doing documentation, if you're interested.

NP: Yes, yes, anything that you wish to say.

RB: O.K., O.K., anyhow. There, in one of those big huts, the Nissen huts they were called, in the British Army, they, we were set up for documentation and people walking from table to table around and giving--and one corporal came to me and said, "The prisoner wants to address you." In fact, he said, well, in German, it's a very stilted German [unclear] a very stiff [unclear]. Well, I don't have to bother you with the German. Anyhow, I said, "Give me his records." Then I looked at it and I realized who he was. And he came to me and he said, "I would like to be permitted," in German of course, "...to put a question to the Mr. Staff Sergeant." And I say, which made me chuckle inside. Anyhow, this was a--well, he said, "Have you ever been to Berlin?" And I said, "Never in my life." And then, so he turned away and said, "Amazing resemblance. Amazing resemblance," and turned away. This was a fellow who was at the pharmacist school with me. In fact, we were both interested in photography and he was at my house at my apartment once and we set up some stuff to take photographs. But he was a bit shifty, that guy. So, I didn't want to know him.

NP: And so your work, then, went on to Nuremberg? You testified at Nuremberg?

RB: Yes, and it was a party of British officers, visiting our camp for whatever reason. And one fellow said, "Oh, you are here!" It was one of the guys who was in Australia with me. He was an officer. And he said, "We need people like you in Nuremberg. I need you." I said, "Don't do me any favors. I'm comfortable here." I was there and I shared a room with another sergeant. I had a former S.S. man for a bat man who polished our shoes. In any event, very comfortable. And I said, "It can wait till it's--my time's up." I said, "No, no, no, no." Anyhow, a couple of weeks later I got orders to go to Nuremberg...

NP: And your wife...

RB: Which I visited.

NP: She came.

RB: She was in Oxford. So that's what I did. And that's what--and I stayed at Nuremberg as interpreter/translator before the British War Crimes Executives. That's the adminis--I can show you here the pictures and all sorts of stuff. And to the end of the trial. That was about the last four months of the trial. And then my number came up for demobilization. I passed the test for courtroom interpreter, which is grueling.

NP: Courtroom interpreter?

RB: Interpreter, yes, because all you have is a microphone in front and the switch. You can, red or a yellow light. Yellow light means please slow down or red light, stop. If you use it more than once, you're out. And no interpreter could serve more than two hours a day because it's so nerve wracking. Because you hear it, you have your earphones, and you have to speak it, hear it in German and speak it in English or the other way around, in English. And I passed the test for the subsequent trials. But I wasn't going to stay there any longer. I could have gotten a job for Lore too, to stay there. But I said, "That's enough." So I went home, and there, of course, I saw all our friends.

NP: And you were doing this as...

RB: Staff Sergeant...

NP: Staff Sergeant and the...

RB: And interpreter for the British War Crimes Executives. This is...

NP: Excuse me.

RB: Yeah. [tape off, then on]

NP: Mr. Bryan, when, what were the conditions under which you changed your name?

RB: Well, in the beginning it didn't matter. One thing I would like to say...

NP: Yes?

RB: In the American Army, German, former German refugees, joining the American Army, were made citizens within about four or five weeks after joining. In Britain, I served in the British Army as a German national. I wasn't, I did not become a British citizen until about two or three months after I got out of the army. When I was in the army, and later on, of course, I transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps from the Pioneer Corps. I--they--it was suggested those--sooner or later we knew we were going to Europe, so, to the continent. And those of German origin are suggested to change their names. And they changed all papers and didn't show place of birth. And, although I know of people who joined the fighting forces, who were parachuters and so on, and were killed in fact or taken prisoner and then killed or what, whichever way it was, by the Germans, well, and I changed it then. But it was partly because I didn't--because my name, Britzmann, is not a Jewish name [unclear]. It's a German name. And I was not keen to keep that. And then I changed it, because I'd become of the Royal Photographic Society before, and I made it up as a hyphenated name, Bryan-Britzmann. That was even before that mess. Anyhow, that's when we changed our name, when they changed my army papers and so forth [unclear]. In fact I was married as Roger Bryan. So, Lore never had--was never Mrs. Britzmann. So...

NP: And so, you were about to leave your job as, well, a sergeant of security in...

RB: Oh, at the camp. Yeah, yeah.

NP: At the camp.

RB: And then I went to...

NP: And then you went to Nuremberg and then you were going out of the service at that time, after that, right?

RB: After the,--yes, well, of course, here-- are we still on?

NP: Yes.

RB: O.K.

NP: Mr. Bryan is showing me a photograph of the Nuremberg Trials, which took place in 1945 to 1946.

RB: And here is, you see about Göring.

NP: In the picture are Hermann Göring...

RB: Hess.

NP: And Rudolf Hess.

RB: And other--the whole, Keitel.

NP: Keitel.

RB: Streicher.

NP: Streicher [Julius].

RB: Eh, all of these, but that's the British [unclear] and here's little me. And...

NP: And Mr. Bryan was there to testify.

RB: With the British...

NP: To interpret.

RB: To interpret, yeah, I was there...

NP: Interpret.

RB: On, with this David Maxwell Feif [phonetic] is the British Consul. And here is the German defense.

NP: Mr. Bryan is showing me a picture of the German defense, at the Nuremberg Trials.

RB: See, this is a better picture.

NP: [tape off, then on] Would you like to add anything? After you were out of the service...

RB: Well...

NP: How did you proceed with your life?

RB: Well, that, yes, I joined--first of all, I went back to Glasgow. That was where my wife was, too. And she had worked for Marks and Spencer.

NP: Oh.

RB: She was as a, what they call, window dresser, you know, decorating the windows. But then she changed. In fact, she asked me, she went to work for a friend of ours, also a former German, in a photo studio. He was a manager and she got a job as a retoucher. She asked me if I should do it. Well, that was self interest that time. Stay in the business. And I worked for him, too, for a while. And I ran a little studio but it wasn't--

didn't work out. And I operated a retail store for him for a while, in photographic equipment. And...

NP: Did you stay in Glasgow for a while?

RB: Yeah.

NP: You had your family there?

RB: Yes, yes. And my daughter was born and then I met a friend of mine, I met a friend, he *became* a friend, a Jew in Glasgow. He was Scottish born. And we started a photography business as partners. Bryan and Shier [phonetic]. And [tape off, then on]

NP: And when did you come to the United States?

RB: Well, my wife's brother lived in Philadelphia, because originally he had American, well, yeah, mostly American born cousins here and that's how he came to Philadelphia. And he was in the industrial thread business in 1952. He sent us the tickets because I didn't have anything. And he said, "Why don't you come to visit and see what--if you like it." So we came in '52 and spent most of that summer in Atlantic City, which was different then. And we went around and saw friends and a cousin in Baltimore and so forth. I had a cousin in Baltimore. And we liked it. So the following year, we came, to stay.

NP: Did you reunite with any of the survivor community? Was there anybody that you knew in Philadelphia?

RB: No. Actually, when I came eventually, Harold Stern...

NP: Yes!

RB: Who is distantly related to my sister-in-law--came--had been in Australia with me, but I never met him there. You know, but we got together here. And the first person we contacted here was Cahn. We had, we called them on the phone. And the lady said, "Oh, you sound young. I think you want to speak to my son really."

NP: Uh huh. Cahn was the name?

RB: Cahn, yeah, C-A-H-N, Ella.

NP: Uh huh.

RB: Walter Cahn. His name is Walter Cahn. We got in town and we've been friends ever since. And we see each other.

NP: Very good. Well, we...

RB: He is of German origin but he was not--he has been here since 1935.

NP: I see that you have begun to write your memoirs. I hope you will complete it.

RB: I started about ten years ago!

NP: And...

RB: And interrupted for several years and...

NP: I know this will be important for your children, for your family...

RB: Something, yeah, for them.

NP: In the future, and we thank you for the testimony that you've given this morning. I know it was lengthy...

RB: Yeah, yeah.

NP: There was so much for you to tell, I know.

RB: Yeah.

NP: And hopefully this will be used by serious students in the future, and for the purposes of research.

RB: O.K., thank you.

NP: And we thank you.