

Preface

The following oral history transcript is the result of a videotaped (audio taped) interview with ["N"], conducted by ["N"] on [DATE] on behalf of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The interview took place in [CITY] and is part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies. Rights to the interview are held by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The reader should bear in mind that this is a verbatim transcript of spoken, rather than written prose. This transcript has been neither checked for spelling nor verified for accuracy, and therefore, it is possible that there are errors. As a result, nothing should be quoted or used from this transcript without first checking it against the taped interview.

Final Version

Submitted by Erika Whobrey in October, 2002

Kübler: 9/15/1998

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Jeff and Toby Herr Collection. Interview with Mr. Kübler, conducted by Bettina Völter on September 15, 1998, in Sindelfingen, Germany. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum gratefully acknowledges Jeff and Toby Herr for making this interview possible.

Length: 5 Cassettes each 60 min. (about 300 min)

Notes:

I: Interviewer

P: Interviewee

P1: Wife of the interviewee

XXX: End of the marking

*numbers in parenthesis indicates the length of a
pause in seconds

*italicized words indicate vocal emphasis

*words enclosed in number signs (#) indicate that
the words were spoken at the same time

[Tape 1/5, Side A]

I: ((inaudible)) you know already
P: I hope
I: Good, um, I would simply like to ask you to tell me
about your family history and your own #life story#
P: #Sure#
I: and just take as much time as you want
P: So, without Berlin as well, or only before?
I: Sure, you can begin before if you like
P: OK
I: and, um, I'm just going to take down a few #notes#
P: #OK#
I: and then I'll follow up on your points
P: OK
I: more clearly, hmm
P: So, born in Singen
I: Hmhm
P: nineteen hundred six
I: hmhm (3)
P: attended school in Weinsberg, Heilbronn, and
Stuttgart
I: Uh-huh (2)
P: Umm, studied mechanical engineering at TU
(Technische Universität) Stuttgart
I: hmhm
P: Diploma (2), um, nineteen hundred twenty-eight
(2) at that time unemployed, um, or a jobless
time
I: Yes
P: Um, after that I had an additional vocational
apprenticeship at Blohm and Voss in Hamburg
I: Yes (1)
P: and because of that I had the chance to travel to
South America as a volunteer ship engineer
I: Oh! (2) hmhm
P: on coming back, was still without work - well,
let's say almost still
I: hmhm
P: but, (2) as a lucky coincidence I went to the
university again, and studied the bulletin board
I: Uh-huh

P: I found a bulletin for the Institute for Traffic Engineering and Transportation (2) which back then belonged (1) to the civil engineers,

I: Hmhm (2)

P: that an institute for aviation engineering and traffic was to be founded.

I: Aha

P: and they needed a mechanical engineer and an electronic engineer for air traffic control (1) and so I went there, and I was hired (1) with that I had my *first* year, or one year, of employment

I: hmhm (2)

P: during this time, the institute expanded quite a bit (2) and, um, a board of trustees for the institute was formed so that money came in

I: Aha (1)

P: and (2) the national train system, the Württemberg Department of Commerce, a bank, and (2) Lufthansa belonged to the (3) National Department of Transportation

I: hmhm (3)

P: and after that year, they paid quite well considering the circumstances of the time

I: Yes,

P: and when the apprenticeship was over, my professor asked (1) he now also had the means to offer candidacy for a doctorate degree, and whether or not I wanted to stay there, and I did just that, so I received a topic which I finished in nineteen hundred thirty-two

I: hmhm (4)

P: <<clears his throat>> (3) Meanwhile, this board of trustees came to the agreement that step by step every year a member of the board of trustees would employ an assistant

I: hmhm (2)

P: and I would have been at Lufthansa in October of thirty-two

I: hmhm

P: but unfortunately instead of starting there I had to go to the hospital, I contracted Typhus on a business trip

I: hm (2)

P: and during this time in the hospital the, um, (2) overthrow [of the government by Hitler] took place in Berlin

I: hmhm (3)
P: whereby this board of trustees' member, *Milch*, became the Director of Lufthansa, superintendent, and later the undersecretary of state (Staatssekretär) of the air force
I: hmhm,
P: so he received the order to build a department, and for that he needed people
I: yes
P: and what did he do? He took all the applications that were at *Lufthansa* with him
I: hmhm (2)
P: to the new department. *But*, there were certain conditions, where only those who had an initial interview behind them were employed.
I: hmhm
P: and because of that, there was no budget for the department at first (2) they didn't know how they should go about it
I: Uh-huh (1)
P: Then the future boss wrote me, he hoped that he could get enough money to take a business trip to Stuttgart or Friedrichshafen and see me
I: Uh-huh (1)
P: it took a very long time, and then I, um, wrote back, that I would be ready *if* necessary, even though I had been unemployed for almost a full year and was not really financially stable enough yet,
I: Uh-huh
P: to pay for a trip to Berlin with my own money
I: hmhm
P: in case I were to be taken on
I: hmhm
P: and that then worked- and eight days after that I was ((inaudible))
I: hmhm
P: so that's how I came to be in the Ministry of Aviation
I: Uh-huh (2)
P: at first it was of course a very small *circle* (2) , which stayed close together, worked very informally. Only, it came to my attention that at first it almost seemed uncomfortable, that all the people ((inaudible))
I: hmhm,

P: mostly they were all (1) army officers (1) and I didn't get into *civilian* aviation, but into military aviation

I: hmhm (1)

P: and at first I took part in it because the work was similar

I: hmhm

P: at that time

I: Uh-huh (4)

P: but pretty soon I realized that I was going to have problems in that career because there were certain requirements to fly (1) and according to the regulations at that time I couldn't be an airplane pilot because of ((inaudible))

I: I see, hmm

P: then I wanted to leave, but it was hinted at gently that (2), um, whoever has a job with the government cannot give notice themselves, only the state could give a person notice when they did something wrong

I: Oh (2)

P: and then (2), hmm, the bureaucratization of the Party started

I: hmhm (2)

P: even though I was already employed and had already worked for I think three months, the local party leader from my hometown and kept files on people, and, and, and

I: Uh-huh (1)

P: and after that, he announced, he had put me into the Ministry of Aviation, it didn't interest me very much at that time, but in '45 during the denazification (2) that was a *minus* point

I: Aha, I see

P: hmph (2) the second matter of business for the Party (3) a decree came out (2) that everyone who worked for the government had to at *least* be a supportive member of the Party

I: Uh-huh (2)

P: so we were and just thought that, so we pay, which unfortunately is also something, #huh?#

I: #Yes#,

P: *but* the result of that was that about eight days after this *declaration* (1) I got a letter from my SA (Sturmabteilung) unit

I: hmhm

P: I was to show up Tuesday at ten o'clock on this and that street with the ((inaudible))

I: hmhm

P: so then I informed them that I had a job and I couldn't ((inaudible)), then fourteen days later a *very cheeky* letter came from a similar office

I: hmhm

P: hmph, if I didn't come there and there, they would have the police pick me up (1)

I: aha (1)

P: After that I went with the letter to my boss

I: hmhm

P: I showed it to him, and *simultaneously* the *same* thing happened to about *ten* of my colleagues and then the undersecretary of state (Staatssekretär), Milch, um, wrote the Führer's Deputy ((inaudible)) that the people were there for rearmament of the state

I: hmhm

P: and that they didn't have time to do things of that sort

I: Yes

P: then I got a letter from the Führer, um, the representative of the Führer

I: hmhm (2)

P: umm (2) because, because of the recent events, it must be established that I am unfit for the Party

I: aha

P: Unfortunately, that letter was lost during a bombing

I: <<laughs; hardly audible>>

P: that would have been useful to me in forty-five

I: Yes (2)

P: *but* (2) it could have also been damaging, because about a half a year later (1) they were saying that *all* people who weren't comrades of the Party had to leave the ministry

I: hmhm

P: but Göring, who wasn't on very good terms with the Führer's Deputy (2), I don't know, didn't accept it, or how he called it, or handled it, I don't know. At any rate, it *wasn't* carried out in the aviation ministry

I: hmhm

P: in that respect I went through the war (1), um, (1) without a party

I: hmhm
P: hmm, nevertheless, if we take into account the
denazification in Bölfingen
I: hmhm
P: hmp (1) whereby a neighbor played a certain role,
who was communist
I: hmhm (1)
P: negative, hmm, (1) and I was reproached (2), that
I would have (3) a- (1), um, that's right, I
should have, I had subscribed to the official
publication of the Ministry of Aviation already
long ago
I: hmhm
P: already as an assistant, hmm, and it continued
when it was taken over by the Nazi
(Nationalsozialistisches) publisher
I: hmhm
P: because of that, I supposedly supported the
flying corps, so I should have cancelled it (1)
and so I was classified as a participant, was
limited to 2/3 of my pay
I: hmhm
P: and had to pay a fine, I don't know the amount
anymore; I think it was 300 Marks
I: hmhm
P: then I put in my objection
I: Uh-huh
P: it was then accepted; it was a (1) somewhat
overemphasized reason
I: hmhm (2)
P: was then toned down, but I supposedly should have
deserted when I noticed what the Third Reich was
up to
I: hmhm (3)
P: the (1) pay restrictions followed me for years
I: hmhm (2)
P: I never received the sum, which I paid, back, but
I was then pronounced free with an exclamation
mark
I: hmhm
P: hm (2) so that's all regarding the Party
I: hmhm (2)
P: ok (5) what should the topic be now? (3) what -
I: are you asking? Maybe you could explain . . . or what
do you mean?
P: Yes, um, um, what do you place importance on?
That is, so to speak, the bio

I: Yes (1) um, maybe you could simply explain until until today, to the end, so that we

P: yes

I: have a complete overview

P: good

I: and then I'll inquire #further#

P: #well# (5) The end of the war I experienced . . . or, I should start a little bit earlier (2) um (4) um, the Führer had, um, as (2) the Russians marched in from the one side, and the Americans from the other, reached an agreement, once with (2) Göring and with the, um, fleet Admiral, Raeder, that they both, so to speak would take over the government, that is to say, Raeder in Plön in the north

I: hmhm

P: for the northern half, and Göring the southern half (2) and, um, (4) that is how my - the staff that I worked with- I don't know the exact date anymore but I think it was the fifteenth of April, no, nope, I think the sixteenth, was shipped to the south

I: hmhm (1) XXX

P: then came to Berchtesgaden (2) and two days later to Tummersbach by Zell am See

I: hmhm

P: and, um, um, we were supposed to defend the southern half of Germany while the other defended the northern half (1) but (2) I think one or two days later (1) the Army Division that was responsible down there, surrendered

I: hmhm

P: and with that we were finished #let's#

I: #Yes#

P: say

I: uh-huh

P: we were then transported back to Berchtesgaden by the Americans (2) and our own people (2) non-commissioned officers and staff officers had to build a barbed wire fence around us

I: hmhm,

P: and after they were finished, it was explained to us that we were prisoners of war, but the war was over; we weren't prisoners of war anymore, but (3) we were in a so-called Internment camp

I: hmhm

P: and there were four parties

I: aha
P: with the good luck that the Russians weren't there; the next day they were no longer allowed in the camp
I: hmhm,
P: and the French no longer the day after that
I: hmhm
P: then it was a two-party camp
I: hmhm
P: and there, under the command of an American General, who, however, disappeared on the third day
I: <<laughs shortly>>
P: because (1) the Americans found out that he had a German wife
I: hmhm (1)
P: and then there was the British commander, who also had a German wife
I: Aha
P: and then they squeezed us out in all
I: yes
P: directions (4) and, um (2) they handled us relatively well (2) *but* in the meantime the war in Japan ended suddenly and the American troops from Japan needed German barracks
I: hmhm (1)
P: so we had to go (1) were transported to England with eighteen freight vehicles with everything else that was lying around - typewriters, cooking utensils and all sorts of other things
I: I see
P: into a British camp
I: hmhm (1)
P: the *interesting* thing was what the people said to us at the fence, Mr. Churchill had that camp built for German officer prisoners of war in nineteen hundred thirty-seven
I: hmhm (1)
P: we didn't even know anything about the war then
I: hmhm
P: hm, it was also appropriate ((inaudible)) everything fenced up, um, no door latches from the inside to the outside
I: hmhm
P: It was pretty complicated (3)
I: hmhm

P: but the British maintained us (2) um, very well there, for example in accordance with the terms of the (1), don't ask me, international [Ed: "league"?] treaty or something like that, they paid us army scrip

I: hmhm

P: with newly printed bills, gave us, um, supplies from the army store

I: hmhm (2)

P: everything was outstanding, but after two months it was said that we were to be transported back to Germany (1) and the exportation of money was forbidden and the - and we knew that they ((inaudible))

I: hmhm

P: with money, before that money was paid for such things

I: I see, hm

P: hmph, and they also let us write home weekly (1), um, we're doing well, a pre-printed Red-Cross card

I: I see

P: we're doing well . . . we got them all back when it was time to go . . . the mail hadn't worked

I: uh-huh

P: hmph, one can keep regulations *that* way too

I: yes (2)

P: then we got (only very posh), um, first class seats in

I: hmhm

P: in British trains, but when we got to Belgium (2) we were loaded into cattle cars

I: hmhm

P: sealed from the outside (2) and in this way we were transported through German- through Belgium and into Germany and were then (2) sorted in Marburg

I: hmhm

P: the upper ranks went to a prisoner camp, usually Dachau

I: hmhm (1)

P: and the lower ranks, and some they punished in part according to their party, or something like that, (1) and others by (2) um dictated orders (1) part they let go . . . I had the luck of belonging to the ones that were let go

I: hmhm (2)

P: in addition to that (2) this (1) commander of the
dismissal camp had (3) Czech workers
I: hmhm (2)
P: who were hired as thugs
I: hmhm (2)
P: our girls that we all still had with us
((inaudible)) all of them each year BDM (Nazi
women's organization)((inaudible))
I: hmhm (1)
P: and, um, (2) members of the party were bea-
sometimes beaten so much that they (1) um, had to
be brought to the hospital
I: hmhm (5)
P: um, and, well, in the interrogation room there
was always only one man
I: hmhm (1)
P: before me there was a German (2) a teacher, and
he wan- answered in English.
I: hmhm
P: and wanted, he then didn't understand something
correctly and asked and then the officer said
'what, the pig wants to ask more questions?'
I: hmhm
P: 'out'
I: I see
P: I was next in line and I was let go . . .and
because of that I was let go
I: ah
P: hm, and ((inaudible)) went to the hospital - so
beat up that he had to go the hospital, the
teacher
I: hmhm (2)
P: and then we, well, I was brought to Silfingen
I: hmhm
P: where I knew my family, well, mother-in-law was
in this house
I: hmhm,
P: and it was (3) I think one or two days before
Christmas and um
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm, (2) I came here
I: '55
P: '45
I: '45 ((inaudible))
P: yes, '45
I: ok
P: hm

I: hm
P: but of course unemployed
I: hm (2)
P: no income, *nothing*, we really only had (3)
together, well, my wife with three children then
I: hmhm
P: and my mother-in-law, her small pension as a
teacher's widow

I: hmhm
P: hm (3) of course I looked everywhere for a job at
that time and after a quarter of a year I had the
good fortune (1) of getting into the Statistical
County Seat (Statistisches Landesamt) in
Stuttgart
I: hmhm (2)
P: and the Americans really indirectly arranged it
again. They wanted a system of putting together
industrial reports, which had not existed until
then
I: hmhm (2)
P: and how I was found by the interim manager. .
.the officials, of course, had all been fired
I: hmhm (2)
P: how I was searched for or found by the *interim*
manager I don't know now anymore, but at any rate
I was assigned with the job of putting together
reports on the industry
I: hmhm (2)
P: and I did that for about a year (4) and then I
was (1) recommended by a former colleague (2) in
what was later the Federal Department of
Transportation (Bundesverkehrsministerium) (2)
which back then was still called the
Transportation Administration (Verwaltung für
Verkehr)
I: hmhm
P: and they asked me if maybe I would like to go
there
I: yes
P: and then my original wish to go into civilian
aviation (1) um
I: was fulfilled
P: became possible
I: uh-huh
P: *only* you weren't allowed to talk about aviation
in Germany in '46

I: hmhm
P: but I had- then I was hired, I had (1) three control officers then
I: hmhm
P: French, American, and I never experienced the Russians (3) um ((inaudible)) well, British, French and Americans
I: hmhm
P: I never experienced the Russians (2) and they had . . . but in part that was the aerial sport people who had already made friends with the German (1) amateur aviators before the war so they knew exactly that German flying *had to* rise again
I: hmhm XXX
P: and indirectly helped, even though *formally* they were there in order to prevent that

I: I see (2)
P: and then it did happen (2) that we got Lufthansa again
I: hmhm
P: hm, although (2) I believe that was (5) that was already in the second Bundestag (Lower house of the German parliament)
I: hmhm (2)
P: so, around '52 or '53 (1) *but* in the meantime we also had plans to build a German army again
I: hmhm (1)
P: and-

[Tape 1/5, Side B]

P: was and saw that I was to go into military aviation again
I: aha
P: I had to leave the Department of Transportation again for the Department of Defense
I: hmhm
P: then (2)
I: hmhm (2)
P: um, I probably didn't put forth enough effort, but (2) by today's standards (2) it was a practical job and
I: hmhm (2)
P: later didn't create any big problems, and then I was in various positions within the Department of

Defense (3) lastly in Koblenz (3) during which my family stayed in Bonn

I: hmhm (1)

P: because back then (2) Koblenz belonged to the French zone (2) and consequently there were French schools in Koblenz

I: hmhm

P: and when I went to the principal of the Koblenz school in those parts with the records of my children from Bonn

I: yes

P: he said, 'I recommend that your children not switch schools

I: hmhm

P: because they would loose at least two years of school'

I: oh

P: hm, 'instead put them into a boarding school.' that wasn't to my taste however, so every day I rode from Bonn to Koblenz on the train

I: hmhm

P: and I left the children in the school in Bonn (2) and um (2) rode back and forth which wasn't (1) too much trouble it was still just fine, so now Bonn Koblenz and in Koblenz I retired in nineteen hundred sixty-nine and since then I live here in this house (1) meanwhile my mother-in-law died (2) we've done a little reconstruction here (2) and (4) we really feel pretty good. My wife is originally from Sindelfingen

I: hmhm (1)

P: and um even though she expected more after the move from Bonn to here

I: hmhm (2)

P: most of her school friends and other acquaintances were already dead or had moved

I: hmhm

P: she really had met very few acquaintances in the neighborhood right or left

I: hmhm

P: hm, (2) and occasionally there were daughters, only a few, but really not like she had expected

I: yes

P: and the garden occupies my time, or did occupy my time

I: hmhm

P: besides that I did some ancestry research

I: hmhm (2)
P: with a certain amount of success; I went all the way back to 1513
I: hmhm, remarkable
P: yes, and it turns out that almost all are from here, this area, hm
I: hmhm
P: in Maisching ((inaudible)), and in Schaffhausen um it stopped when the family moved to Göttingen
I: hmhm
P: hm (2) yes, now it's hard for me to work in the garden, age
I: hmhm
P: I can hardly bend down anymore (3) but on the whole there are younger people who are doing worse than me . . .so that was my biography <<laughs lightly>>
I: good, thank you very much #first of all#
P: #you're welcome#
I: that was a really nice glimpse
P: yes
I: I would like to just go back to the #beginning#
P: #yes#
I: of your statements
P: yes
I: Um, you mentioned your birth and time in school, um, and then all of a sudden went to your training. It would be nice if you could tell me a little bit more about your childhood
P: ok (3) well, the two years that I lived in Göttingen I don't remember
I: hmhm
P: my father was transferred to Weinsberg (2) and it's there that (2) my (3) memory seems to start
I: hmhm
P: then during this move I was taken to my grandparents in Ebersbach
I: hmhm
P: hm, (1) Grandmother had to then (1) um take me in during our moving troubles (1) and she also sometimes didn't have time for me, so I went to my grandfather who was the head teacher in the elementary school
I: hmhm

P: I was then put into school and it is from *then* that I have my first memory

I: aha

P: w- al- had back then I believe two classe- the school had, I think, two teachers

I: hmhm

P: he had the first *three* grades all together

I: hmhm

P: and the other colleague had the upper four (3) and (2) then Grandfather had planned to talk about bees

I: aha

P: and then he asked what a bee is (2) and then I, it's still explained somewhat mockingly in the family, said, 'something that you put wood on' <<speaks this like a small child>>

I: <<laughs softly>>

P: I mixed up bee (Biene) and stage (Bühne)

I: <<laughs softly>>

P: so, that's my first memory

I: hmhm

P: 'something that you put wood on'

I: <<laughs softly>>

P: yes, and then from Weinsberg (7) well, just about four years after me a brother was born

I: hmhm (7)

P: and so then I went to elementary school in Weinsberg

I: hmhm (3)

P: it was simply the custom (1) and after (2) after the first few grades, um I went to high school in Heilbronn, that means in a pre-school class of the school which was put in for everyone who had pre-school classes in the high school and later it was split up

I: hmhm

P: then, after three years I went from the ((inaudible)) high school to the secondary school in Heilbronn

I: hmhm

P: hm, (5) you probably don't want to hear anymore from that time period do you?

I: yes, if something comes to your mind from that time - a story

P: Which you #still remember#

P: #well then, of course something comes to me#

I: #yes#

P: hm, um, well, then there was World War One
I: yes
P: it started then
I: hmhm
P: and um, (1) <<clears his throat>> first (1) no
train went between Weinsberg and Heilbronn
anymore
I: hmhm
P: so I had to walk the six kilometers (1) daily
there and back
I: hmhm (1)
P: second (1) the young teachers all became soldiers
I: hmhm
P: and the retired teachers (2) um were asked back
I: hmhm
P: so that I (1) went to school with teachers who
[Theodor] Heuss, the later Federal President
(Bundespräsident), provided criticism for in his
biography ((inaudible))
I: aha <<laughs shortly>> (2)
P: these were in part the same #teachers#
I: #hmhm# (3) does any example come to mind?
P: no, not anymore (1)
I: any situation that you experienced with a teacher?
P: yes, well, um (3) with, um, one of the teachers
in second grade
I: hmhm
P: he was a sadist
I: aha (1)
P: and we came on the train - the train was running
again - we came with the train during the winter
months over one hour early to Heilbronn
I: hmhm
P: so we had to go into the classroom, and then he
came *also* one hour early
I: hmhm
P: and then he checked our homework, and and and,
and sadistically he would box my ears up to here
I: oh
P: he always picked me out, and the class the ones
from Heilbronn when they came they just asked me
(1) 'how is he today?' and then they already
((inaudible))
I: hmhm
P: hm, um, when the others came, *until* one day (2)
when my father came back from the front during
vacation

I: hmhm
P: and he saw that, and said that that can't remain like that
I: uh-huh
P: and went in his uniform *and* I believe the day before that he received his Iron Cross
I: hmhm
P: so with his decoration he went to him (2) and from then on he left me alone
I: hmhm
P: the dignity of the uniform
I: hm
P: apparently worked
I: yes
P: hm, *but* that also went along with it back then
I: yes
P: of course there were also blows
I: hm
P: in large numbers, hm, for the same thing ((inaudible))
I: hmhm (4)
P: then from the (3) from the high school time (3) there was something (1) that still today impresses me
I: hmhm
P: a teacher came (1) whose legs had been shot-taken off, during the war
I: hmhm
P: and he was taken from out of the elevator by the top- form students and put in front of the board and there he stood, and without any interruptions from the class or any speaking out (1) with him there was no copying nor insistent talking
I: hmhm (3)
P: just respect for this man
I: hmhm
P: who under truly difficult circumstances ((inaudible))
I: hmhm (1)
P: it worked
I: hmhm (1)
P: yes
I: uh-huh (2)
P: Yes, *then* (3) I need to . . . the transferal of my father (2) then we lived in a one-family- in a two-family house in Weinsberg (2) the owner of the house above us treated my mother so badly

while my father was at war that my mother moved
us out right away

I: hmhm

P: then we had an emergency apartment as father came
back from the front, but one (2) looked like a
useful apartment but it was taken by the son of
the owner shortly after

I: hmhm (1)

P: and my parents (2) then saw (2) that we couldn't
stay in Weinsberg (2) because they couldn't let
my- me and my brother, four years later, study at
the same time

I: hmhm (3)

P: and then my father said that we had to go to
Stuttgart so that you can study from home

I: uh-huh

P: hm, and my brother studied in Tübingen

I: hmhm (3)

P: and then my father built a small house in
Eulendorf through a civil servants building
association and we moved in there

I: hmhm

P: and then I went to the high school in Stuttgart
where I then (1) took the highest form classes,
then I took my graduation exams

I: hmhm (1)

P: and then I started my studies ((inaudible)) first
my vocational apprenticeship

I: hmhm

P: and then my studies

I: hmhm, I would like to go a little deeper into what you
said
about World War I

P: ok

I: Do you still have memories from when World War #I#

P: #many#

I: #began#

P: #many#

I: or at all about the First World War?

P: yes, many, well, first of all (1) my father was a
big singer

I: hmhm

P: and he was on the board for the Weinsberg
"Liederkranzes"

I: hmhm

P: and he was supposed to arrange a regional singing festival (Gausängerfest) on the second of August, nineteen hundred fourteen (1) so there was a huge rush in the family

I: uh-huh <<laughs lightly>>

P: my mother made garlands with the ladies of the, um, club and um (4) the garlands were - oh, first the singing festival was cancelled as t- um, the the war became threatening

I: uh-huh

P: and then the garlands were hung on the trains that were leaving as the volunteers rode to the front

I: #hmhm#

P: #hm# the trains came maybe fourteen days later some with the wilted wreaths still, but ((inaudible)) (1) I still remember it exactly

I: yes

P: then (4) the horses were also over there

I: hmhm (1)

P: the wounded from the train station in the newly erected temporary hospital (2) also had to be transported

I: hmhm

P: and there were no more horses so the cows and oxen had to be harnessed

I: hmhm

P: and they were animals that until then had never been harnessed before

I: hmhm

P: I *still* can see it *today* in my head, the ambulances with two oxen in front of them and the oxen drove this way and that but just not where they were supposed to

I: hmhm

P: hm (2) it's a wonder that nothing happened there

I: hmhm

P: and the men were also not there

I: yes

P: the women had never dealt with the oxen before. The stable boy who in the meantime had become a soldier and was no longer there did that

I: hmhm (2)

P: I still remember the (2) stupid barrier exactly (2)
Um, there were rumors like like today, rumors that claimed that enemy agents were coming

through and (2) hay wagons were put sideways across the streets so that no one could come through (1) hm, one time there was a car that came through a field

I: uh-huh

P: not on the regular street but on a path through a field, then someone claimed that it was a Russia- a Russian agent that had to go to the French in order to tell them something. The next day it was said that no, it was just a crown prince who was going to his army. So, it was a real mess

I: hm

P: something I still remember

I: yes (2)

P: then the guarding of the tunnel

I: hmhm

P: old veteran reservists (Landsturmlaute) were then put there, who had never had anything to do with being a soldier and there they were posted at the train station in the waiting room. The temporary watch buildings were first class

I: hmhm

P: and they also had to clean weapons and such- one of them shot one through the ceiling and then all the guns went off and up above sat ((inaudible)) went past him on the sofa through the roof

I: hmhm

P: such are the things I remember

I: yes

P: um-

I: you told me about the trains that drove away with the garlands

P: yes

I: um di- can you explain the situation a little more precisely? Did you see it . . . yourself?

P: yes, I saw it

I: ok

P: hm

I: can you simply tell me about the day on which it happened?

P: I really don't know that anymore

I: #ok#

P: #it# had to be #probably#

I: #I mean now - yes#

P: one or two days before the beginning of the #war#

I: #yes#

P: hm, back then in nineteen hundred fourteen as
opposed
to nineteen hundred thirty, um, there was a huge
enthusiasm for the war

I: hm

P: and the volunteers were everywhere, um,
practically overflowing, because the authorities
couldn't deal with all of them on such short
notice

I: uh-huh

P: and, um, everyone gathered in the military sub-
district command and I believe the train came
from Halle and in Weinsberg in addition to that
picked up the volunteers

I: hmhm

P: hm (1)

I: Do you have memories of your family or the situation
of your
family?

P: yes, my father, um, didn't have to go with [the
army] at first

I: hmhm (2)

P: he was an official at the post office "Uk-
gestellt" (this person has been deemed
irreplaceable in their position, and therefore
must not serve in the military.)

I: hmhm (1)

P: he had- was a volunteer for one year in- I
believe in ninety-seven (1) but (2) after half a
year that, that place was changed from the non-
commissioned officer of the militia
(Unteroffizier der Landwehr) into the non-
commissioned officer of the Reserves
(Unteroffizier der Reserve)

I: hmhm

P: and so he was sent for

I: hmhm

P: first he went to ((inaudible)) (2) and was
trained (2) there, um, as an (1) officer and
after he became that then he was brought to the
western front in the area around Aras (a region
named for the Aras river that flows through
Turkey, Iran, Armenia, and Azerbaijan)

I: hmhm (1)

P: and he was there until (3) I believe the summer
of eighteen

I: hmhm

P: or early in the year ((inaudible)) then he was-
was poisoned by gas and had to go, um, back
I: uh-huh (2)
P: really only for half of a year, if the war had
gone on longer he would have had to go out again
I: uh-huh
P: hm, but the post office waited for him and his
absence was strongly felt there
I: hmhm
P: hm
I: You explained the situation as your father came back
during
vacation in the
P: yes
I: um, came back from the front during, um, during
P: yes
I: a certain vacation, um, can you explain the situation
more
when your father came back? (1)
P: Um, I don't remember that anymore
I: ok (2) or another- it doesn't necessarily have to be
that
time, it can simply be how your father, how you
experienced
him, um, as a soldier, um, as a soldier out of the war
who
came home (2)
P: um, one thing I remember (2) when he was already
there
I: hmhm
P: um (1) it was, I don't know anymore, a birthday
or something (2) and the present officers in
Weinsberg at that time were invited to a (2)
dinner, well, that's saying a lot, back then
there was hardly anything to eat anymore
I: hm
P: at any rate, invited to a meeting
I: uh-huh
P: and that was also the first time that my father
was invited into that circle
I: hmhm
P: even though before when he was a senior official
((inaudible)) hm, *didn't* belong to that circle
I: uh-huh
P: that was the first time he was sent for and we
debated a lot over it back then <<clears throat>>
(1) I don't really think he felt well in that

circle, but he had a high enough ranking in order to belong

I: hmhm, can you still remember the conversation at home?

P: no

I: hm, you only know that

P: yes

I: it came to discussions

P: yes

I: Did your father tell you anything about the war?

P: Yes he did explain some things (1) um, one time, I was naturally always interested in such things (1) as a post office official he knew Morse Code

I: hmhm

P: and because of that they um (1) he had to spot the target with the planes, and combat the enemy artillery bases (1) that observed the target

I: hmhm

P: and then the pilots saw that he could do more than they, because almost all of them didn't know Morse Code

I: hmhm (1)

P: then they wanted him to become a pilot XXX

I: I see, hmhm

P: and, um (1) so he flew over enemy lines a few times, but he understood that he didn't have to go there

I: hmhm

P: but, what he told me about flying naturally really interested me

I: hmhm

P: hm (2)

I: For example?

P: well (2) u=um, the approaching enemy

I: hmhm

P: hm, what should one do now, when the pilot swings around in order not to offer a target, but tries to move through, maybe he shoots

I: hmhm

P: and as a young boy, it excited me and-

I: hmhm (3) and later you also worked in such a field (1)

P: um, yes, flying

I: yes

P: let's say not fighting though

I: hmhm

P: hm, in Berlin as well as, um, Koblenz later and, um, Bonn (3) we completely separated the aeronautical weapons from the planes

I: hmhm
P: the workers were colleagues, but were separated
I: hmhm (2) and so with them they-
P: um, I was only very indirectly occupied with the weapons
I: hmhm
P: that they fit inside, but nothing more
I: hmhm
P: hm
I: but with the #planes?#
P: #the internal workings# didn't concern me
I: yes (1) so you had something to do with to do with #the planes#
P: #planes, yes#
I: and the technical aspects
P: yes
I: so it had to do with how could I, with all the #military#
P: #yes#
I: events, retain my position as a pilot
P: uh-huh (2)
I: back to the time of your childhood, you said-um, oh yes, I wanted to ask you this other question again. You said that the trains drove away with the garlands and came back then with the wilted flowers. It seems that you still have a very #strong#
P: #yes#
I: at least picture in your mind or do you also remember a story you #experienced#
P: #no, no#
I: that you ran to the train station or #what#
P: #no#
I: you saw?
P: no, one can't be sure um, back then my father was still at the post office. The post office is next to the train station
I: hmhm
P: and when I picked up or accompanied my father I automatically saw what happened at the train station
I: uh-huh

P: hm, and probably as I went by I just saw a train
there, I see it still in my mind right in front
of me, just as it stood there
I: hmhm
P: with jubilee and hurraing people on their way
there, and back as well
I: uh-huh
P: hm
I: do you have that picture, um, can you describe the
picture a little bit, that you have in front of you?
P: Well, not much anymore
I: hm (3)
P: one (1) passenger train (1) all windows open and
Everywhere soldiers looking out

Tape 2/5, Side A

I: hm
P: I can't say anymore to that
I: ok, now once again to your mother, um, you said (1)
during that time when your father was in the war she,
um, your mother had some problems with the landlord
P: yes
I: and, do you have any memories of *that*?
P: no
I: #a#
P: #no#
I: fight or a ((inaudible))
P: no, I only know that my mother gave her notice
very unexpectedly
I: hmhm
P: and then didn't know where to
I: hmhm
P: and then a (1) um, neighbor is not really the
right word, after all a few hundred meters
away, um, she was prepared to take us in
I: hmhm
P: but on- but *only* as long as her husband was at
the front
I: hmhm
P: as they then came back, the house was too small
and we had to leave
I: hmhm
P: and we had to look for a permanent place to stay
I: uh-huh (1)
P: hm (2)

I: maybe you could tell me about another situation with
your mother that you experienced

P: yes, one that I just told my children (3) in the
first year of war (2) an afternoon school outing
was scheduled (2) from Weins- no, from Heilbronn
to (4) well, I have to look that up later (1) um,
at any rate we rode there on the street- the
class rode there on the streetcar (2) um there to
the look-out tower which I can not remember
anymore, but, um, that was the goal and I think
we also made it there

I: hmhm

P: and then back again (1) and my train to Weinsberg
was of course already gone, because we came too
late

I: hmhm (1)

P: what do I do? (1) I decided to go on foot (1) six
kilometers to Weinsberg

I: hmhm (1)

P: got there and discovered that my mother had gone
to Heilbronn to pick me up

I: oh

P: so I turned around back to Heilbronn

I: no

P: missed again! Went back again. I think that on
that day (1) in that afternoon I covered about 25
kilometers, and then was done in (1) hm

I: <<laughs>> and did you finally meet?

P: yes, at home

I: ah <<laughs softly>>

P: yes (1) so, that was my mother back then <<clears
throat>> (3) there would also of course be some
things to tell about from Weinsberg so far as (2)
the parents from my mother

I: hmhm

P: after retirement they moved from Ebersbach to
Weinsberg

I: hmhm

P: and there they (1) rented and afterwards bought a
small house (4) and my mother almost couldn't (2)
bring herself to leave my grandparents alone in
'22 in Weinsberg because we had to move because
of this apartment story and my studies

I: yes

P: to Stuttgart, so they stayed in Weinsberg alone
(1) while they were especially involved with
their daughter

I: I see
P: hm
I: hm (2)
P: so, that gave her a lot of trouble (3) and of course she died long ago (2)
I: hm (6)
P: hm (8) what else is there to tell? (8)
I: Does anything come to your mind possibly about your brother?
(2)
P: Well, from the Weinsberg time (2) not hardly anything
I: hmhm (2) ok, or later?
P: yes (1) um, my brother, as said, graduated four years after me
I: hmhm (1)
P: and was then- studied in Tübingen and was a fraternity brother of mine from my Stuttgart fraternity
I: hmhm
P: hm (2) he became a teacher and is still living
I: hmhm (1)
P: he just lost his wife last week
I: hm (2)
P: he lives in a nursing home now in Ahlen
I: hmhm (7)
P: and (1) in the Second World War (1) he was an anti-aircraft artillery Officer under Rommel in Africa
I: hmhm (2)
P: and was in a French prisoner-of-war camp in Morocco
I: hmhm (2)
P: they weren't exactly handled very elegantly (3) hm, but not much is elegant during war
I: hm
P: hm (3)
I: you just said that you were in a fraternity. That was during your school years?
P: yes, yes
I: um, which fraternity was it?
P: Wingold
I: aha
P: um, me in Stuttgart and him in Tübingen
I: aha
P: hm

I: can you still remember any events or evenings together
or-
P: oh, yes, of course
I: ok
P: yes, um (3) for example, a festival at the
Wartburg castle
I: hmhm
P: that was '26 (1) and we went (2) exactly where I
don't know anymore (1) to the Thüringer forest
and then we hiked to Eisenach
I: hmhm (2)
P: and the festival was really an experience for me
to meet once with the then, I believe, twenty-
five fraternities from northern Germany and (2)
western Germany and from all over (1) and back
then the fraternity life was also somewhat
different from today
I: hmhm (2)
P: in my opinion these activities don't exist
anymore (2) but the fraternity is still around
and is still growing
I: hmhm
P: hm
I: what was the idea back then ((inaudible))
P: hm, only that it is, um, a Christian fraternity
not a dueling one
I: hmhm
P: but it wore its color ribbon (fraternity badge)
I: hmhm
P: hm, and (2) we had our troubles with the dueling
fraternities which described us as wimps and (2)
and um (3) in part because of that we even took
obligations of neutrality upon ourselves in order
to settle fights between two dueling fraternities
or one fighting and one not dueling *because* (1)
we didn't belong to the dueling fraternities in
the competition
I: hmhm
P: hm (5) um, a donation festival in Stuttgart was
remarkable in the sense that we had our own choir
I: hmhm
P: our own orchestra and our own theater group (2)
hm, so our program was full
I: uh-huh
P: hm and a choir room ((inaudible))
I: hmhm (4)

P: and indirectly, I found my wife through the
fraternity
I: oh, hmhm ((inaudible))
P: I was a fraternity brother, Tübinger fraternity
brother, with the (2) principal of the primary
school in Weilendorf (2) and I got together with
him fairly often (2) and he had a sister (2) and
(3) he wanted to go to a donation festival, this
Tübinger fraternity brother wanted to go to a
donation festival in Stuttgart, but he couldn't
take his wife with him, because she was expecting
their first child
I: hmhm
P: shortly afterwards. So, she took my- he took my
wife with him
I: so as a replacement
P: and it worked
I: <<laughs>> uh-huh, already on the very first evening?
P: on our way home from the donation festival we had
to walk from Feuerbach to Weilendorf
I: uh-huh
P: so around one in the morning or so, something
just sparked
I: <<laughs>>
P: but (1) that was '29
I: hmhm
P: so she had to (1) wait almost *four* years because
I didn't have a position
I: hm
P: hm (2)
I: yes, I just wanted to inquire about your, your time
after your studies, well if you would like to still
say something about #your studies#
P: #yes yes# well, my internship was, um, naturally
not exactly a honore- um, appropriately honored
position
I: hmhm
P: but I always got, I believe, 200 marks
((inaudible)) which was a lot of money back then,
hm, and the, um, also during it, during it, um,
the doctorate
I: yes
P: hm, just about three and one-half years long
I: hmhm (2)
P: hm
I: yes ((inaudible))

P: y=yes, at the moment I have (1) I believe *four*
grandchildren getting their doctorates

I: ah

P: and they all get about twelve hundred marks

I: uh-huh

P: today

I: uh-huh

P: it's not a *lot*, but after all during my time most
of them didn't get *anything*

I: hm

P: hm, and it was a wonder that I directly received
pay for that internship, that the professor paid
an "internship salary"

I: hmhm (2) and then you spoke of being without a job
twice

P: yes

I: one time before South America

P: yes

I: and then afterwards. Maybe we can first go to the
time before South America, um, #can you#

P: #of course#

I: simply explain that a little bit more #clearly#

P: #yes# um, that was (2) really not a time of
unemployment

I: hmhm

P: because, um, directly after getting my diploma

I: yes

P: I went to Blohm and Voss, where I already did an
internship during a summer vacation two years
earlier

I: hmhm

P: and then I did my internship *further* (2) and um
(1) through connections there I then got the
position by the ((inaudible)) to go to South
America (2) I could have also gone *further*, but I
couldn't find another position from the ship

I: hm

P: and it really wasn't the job for me- there is a
career track for ship engineers that is
completely #different#

I: #I see#

P: it really was a wonder that they took me as a
volunteer and kept me on

I: hm

P: hm, and the rest of it was also interesting and
beautiful

I: yes! Tell me a little bit about the South America

P: ha ha
I: trip. That is certainly also-
P: yes, well, we rode out (2) I believe on the tenth
of January, '29
I: hmhm (3)
P: on the Elbe which had very strong ice floes
I: hmhm (1)
P: and then we went to Las Palmas and Cape Verde and
there we had to tank up (1) for the ship
I: hmhm
P: the following about the ship, um, the Hamburg-
South had three kinds of ships, one, purely a
passenger steamer (1) the ones with the three red
caps on the top
I: uh-huh
P: three funnels (2) one with two funnels *mixed* like
my ship, and one, um, funnel only ((inaudible))
I: hmhm
P: ((inaudible)) we had the mixed ones and *in*
addition, there were *many* emigrants present
I: hmhm
P: that, um, on the whole emigrated to Brazil (4)
hm, and then after a good eight days after
leaving Hamburg we came to Las Palmas
I: hmhm
P: ((inaudible)) tropical uniform ((inaudible))
before that you would have like to have had a fur
coat
I: uh-huh
P: (1) ((inaudible)) we then went down to Rio in the
tropical suit
I: hmhm!
P: and we unloaded there for the first time (2) the
second port was Santos (2) third was Porto
Alegre, fourth (3) hmm (4) there was another one
and then, um, Rio, u=um Buenos Aires
I: hmhm
P: and then we stayed for ten days (1) and, um, in
Rio, just like Santos I had shore leave
I: hmhm
P: then I could go into the neighborhood a little
bit, just about two hours three hours, and inform
myself about what it looks like and in, um (1) in
in Buenos Aires we had *ten* days
I: hmhm
P: and I had a fraternity brother there who I didn't
really know but ((inaudible)) and I visited him

(1) and he was an architect in Buenos Aires (2)
and with him, and he took me on outings
I: hmhm (2)
P: two or three besides those I visited a *neighbor*
of mine from Weilendorf that ran a brewery with
his uncle down there
I: aha
P: and so I visited him there (2) but it was
naturally also interesting *really*, let's say,
just to get to know it so shortly
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm (1)
I: and what did the ship have as its load?
P: on the whole it was mostly, like said, um,
traveling emigrants
I: I see
P: and machine parts
I: hmhm
P: hm, or, we also had a piano with us that was then
((inaudible)) taken out but unfortunately I
((inaudible)) badly packed and then unfortunately
the piano didn't work anymore
I: ah
P: hm, probably some emigrant wanted to have his
grandfather's piano or something down there and
we transported it down there and now you can
((inaudible)) hm, you could only ((inaudible))
and he somehow did it badly and it fell (1) in
the water (1) which certainly didn't do the
captain good
I: <<laughs softly>> ok, and when you came back then this
time of unemployment #came#
P: #yes#
I: then, um, yes, it would be nice if you could tell me a
little more exactly
P: yes
I: about this time
P: I gave out *many* application letters, over one
hundred
I: yes
P: um (1) *went* here and there (1) hm, I tried
somehow to get a job, it didn't happen and then
for some time I did *not* have any pay *nor* a formal
job, then I went to my assistant PhD advisor
I: hmhm (1)

P: he had a, um, motor institute down in Canstatt,
so I went to him to continue my training there,
or let's say not to forget it

I: hmhm

P: I worked there (1) but anyway it was just
miserable

I: hmhm

P: and my poor parents who didn't earn very much
anyways had to support me

I: hm, you lived with your parents again #then?#

P: #yes# I lived with my parents

I: yes (1) and when you say "miserable" do you have well,
a memory of a particularly miserable phase where you-

P: well, I can't really say that, my parents had to
save, when I occasionally, I follow the documents
back, I can just wonder at them

I: hmhm (2)

P: how they made it

I: hmhm (3) they didn't have enough income
((#inaudible#))

P: ##yes my father was# the chief post office
inspector

I: yes

P: and, um, the house wasn't paid in full yet, still
had to be, and then my brother in Tübingen needed
much more money than I did with my studies in
Stuttgart

I: hmhm

P: hm (1) in addition, one didn't know much about
grants or such back then

I: uh-huh

P: hm (1)

I: and was there situations where you thought- well,
discouraging situations where you thought that was the
end? That was really very ((inaudible)) three years
(1)

P: well #it was#

I: #it was really a huge-#

P: about one-and-a-half years #where I basically#

I: #one-and-a-half#

P: where I basically hung around unemployed

I: hm

P: hm, without a penny for income

I: hmhm

P: hm (2)

I: did you still have hope though that it would go on, or
was there also a phase-

P: yes just (2) one can take the *general* hope of the Germans that said in '32 that it couldn't go on like this and that changes had to come. We didn't necessarily believe that they would come through Adolf but *that* was- the *general opinion* was that it couldn't go on

I: hmhm

P: hm (2) unfortunately it just so happened that (1) so to say in the first half-year he actually almost got rid of unemployment (1) hm, just not for me (1) hm

I: hmhm (2) you were, um, yes, I just now noticed that you came to this

P: yes

I: Traffic Engineering and #Aviation#

P: #yes#

I: in which year was that?

P: That was in '29, um, yes, #'29#

I: #it was '29# that means then that (2) #the work-#

P: #In '29# I went on the sea trip

I: yes

P: and when I came back from that, um, in (2) about April (1) I was then unemployed again for *almost* a month and then came the walk in the old high school

I: hm

P: where I found this poster and two days later I was hired

I: hmhm and from then on there was no unemployment?

P: until the end of the doctorate (2)

I: and after that came the one-and-a-half #years?#

P: #and# then it was an empty year

I: oh yes

P: hm

I: oh yes, then I already ((inaudible)) (4) ok, can you (2) tell me a little bit about your job in this Institute for Traffic Engineering and Aviation?

P: yes

I: because that was also an entrance into the whole matter (1)

P: yes, well, um, (3) like I said, um, the professor was a civil engineer

I: hmhm

P: because back then the domain of the civil engineer was naturally that of tracing lines and building tunnels and bridges and such, preferably planning traffic routes

I: hmhm
P: but her saw that it didn't fit with air traffic,
because besides the runway and in building
terminals, the civil engineer didn't have
anything to do with air traffic
I: hmhm (1)
P: On the other hand, the ones that took care of the
structural parts of airplanes had maintenance-
wise
I: hmhm
P: two fairly clear series of tasks for the various
accidents of the last few days
I: hmhm (2)
P: and plane safety is a subject that otherwise
didn't ever come up there
I: hmhm
P: hm, there still weren't hardly any traffic lights
back then, hm, at any rate no red green
I: hmhm
P: but when there was anything at all, then in
Berlin, I believe, at the Potsdamer Platz and (2)
I don't know where another one with the
((inaudible)) pointer
I: aha
P: but not anything more traffic-safety-wise
I: hmhm
P: hm (2) well, um (2) we supported the new means of
transportation and we did experiments (3) what
kind of, um, what kind of requirements had to be
put on the plane or on traffic or on plane
safety, so that safer transportation
I: hm
P: follows (2) and who gains from it
I: hmhm (1)
P: and then my boss came to the (2) conclusion that
cities under three-hundred thousand inhabitants
(1) um, should leave their fingers out of it (1)
they put more money in than their profits
I: so, they should build an airport?
P: yes
I: hm (1)
P: which unfortunately- was disregarded in Germany
and today there is strangely enough fake- well in
quotation marks, by our ideas back then
I: yes
P: fake airports, which are now springing up off the
ground

I: hmhm
P: hm, um (2) whereas Lufthansa's opinion now is obviously to completely give up on domestic flights inside Germany
I: hmhm
P: hm (1) it is not worth it
I: hmhm
P: by the time I drive to the airport, and go through screening and do every thing possible, fly, again from, um, wait a half-hour for my suitcase (1) drive to the city again about thirty, forty kilometers away (2) I could have been there long ago already with the Intercity train
I: hmhm
P: hm (1) therefore I believe it's right (1) that the transportation within Germany should slowly stop
I: hmhm, you're very hopeful about that <<laughs softly>>
P: yes (2) yes if if the people would calculate correctly
I: hm
P: then it wouldn't be possible anymore
I: hmhm, it would be nice
P: yes, and there wouldn't be so much noise either
I: exactly
P: <<laughs>> (2)
I: so, you also worked on-
P: yes ((inaudible)) collected literature from the whole world
I: hmhm
P: and analyzed (1) we collected, so to say, reflections of all the plane types
I: hmhm (1)
P: we studied the various, um (3) methods of (2) transportation
I: hmhm
P: which were also often odd in part, the subject (2) flying through with landings in between or landing and changing
I: hmhm (1)
P: it came into the discussion for some stretches and some (3) and um (2) for some time I even worked (2) as an assistant

[Tape 2/5, Side B]

I: I see
P: sometimes there was small machines three or five-seat machines
I: aha
P: hm (1) and, um, (1) the weight was prescribed, so much is allowed inside
I: hm
P: and then when a portly man came
I: <<laughs softly>>
P: it was more than the average
I: aha!
P: hm (1) yeah
I: that means that it was, so to speak, the beginnings of aviation, well, #civilian#
P: #one can't# really completely say b- beginnings, but the beginning of the extension
I: of the #passenger transportation#
P: #yes yes# I also (1) experienced the first night flying machines in Cologne
I: aha
P: which came from, um, London, but back then there was still no plane safety or anything
I: hm (2)
P: hm, we could only speak up there with the voice radio
I: hm (1)
P: and then you knew when you heard it you had to (1) first guess, is he already close, or is he less than just close, and when he was close, you said I hear you good and then he came down (1) during my time it was always good, whether it always (1) worked I don't know
I: hmhm (1) it sounds adventurous #at least for us#
P: #it was# too, it was
I: hm
P: even though my personal opinion is that flying was nicer back then than today
I: hmhm
P: in the big chests that (2) hm
I: hm, one doesn't have so much of an idea anymore about ((inaudible)) (2) hm did you have talks with your father then about the (1) work that you had?
P: Ah, not much really. He was surely interested in it, and as far as ((inaudible)) the post office officials um=um, struggled through it, Post office planes and and such things interested him very much

I: hmhm
P: what *happened* there and what we *knew* about the direction that the post office had planned or (1) whether it would work or not with connections and so on
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm (2)
I: You told me that you the started your doctorate. Maybe you could say what your topic was, what-
P: um, *civil* aviation
I: civil aviation
P: yes ((inaudible))
I: so these topics which you just described basically have to be processed?
P: yes, but flying by yourself (2) hm
I: aha
P: so that the, um, private (1) travel companies like we have today, Daimler or something, whether it's worth it, whether (1) and what kind of people they need there
I: hmhm
P: hm (2)
I: during that then came the typhus
P: yes (2)
I: can you explain a little more about #that?#
P: #yes# I don't know where I got it from
I: uh-huh
P: I took a business trip to Paris (1) and um (2) came back with a high fever and funnily enough the *country* doctor who was called for, my mother's house doctor, was tipped-off immediately, rightly tipped-off
I: hmhm
P: and within an hour I was in the Katrinen Hospital in Stuttgart
I: hmhm
P: and then they did examinations there and they confirmed it
I: hmhm (1)
P: then every possible poll were given out at every place I had been that could be proved in the last eight days
I: uh-huh
P: but *nowhere* was anything about an epidemic
I: hmhm
P: known. I don't know where I got it from
I: hm, and was it a lengthy ((inaudible))

P: yes, I was in the Katrinen Hospital for about five weeks

I: hm (1)

P: and um, Isolation Ward hm, wasn't allowed to receive anyone they were allowed at most to wave to me from the door

I: hm

P: and, but, I was fine (2) but they were always of the opinion that something would come afterwards (2) hm, the doctor also didn't know and was expecting something horrible and it never came with the exception of various abscesses

I: hmhm

P: and then after (1) I was released, about four weeks later I was taken back to the hospital for a week and then they took off two abscesses on my shin (1) which had eaten at the bone (2) hm (2) then later in Berlin I had such abscesses again two more times except that it was somewhat more comfortable and so I went to the doctor and said, take care that what you're doing now (1) that this comes under lock and key ((inaudible)) (2) that can't be, I say, I warned you

I: hmhm

P: he cut it open, blood like black ink, hm, and when I went again to get, um, check up on, the day after or something, he said, you were right, the bacteriologist found out, he had never seen anything so beautiful

I: hmhm

P: but since then I have had peace

I: hmhm

P: hm, just I don't know why or how (3)

I: ok, we already spoke about the unemployment

P: yes

I: ((inaudible)) a hard time

P: yes

I: and then politically things changed as well, the overthrow-

P: yes, he had, let's say, two *big* plans, one of them was the building of the Autobahn

I: hmhm

P: hm, where Adolf (2) sensibly said that Autobahns had to be built (1) but no machines were allowed to be used

I: hmhm

P: everything was to be done by hand and with that he then ((inaudible)) (3) **rings runter gekriegt** (1) and the other was, of course, the rearmament, which we, even though we took part in it, we didn't see at all as such, and above all, not what is observed today, back then it was announced in small circles, um, the war (2) um respectively predicted (2) ?? so in the cities that I was in it was not inside **[war das nicht drin]** until the end we didn't (12) didn't (1) know that we were starting a war

I: hmhm

P: instead, we were of the opinion that the tensions with Poland were so agitated that every day we had to expect an attack

I: hmhm

P: what happened in between was with the SS-Division which imitated the war as a polish division?? And other than that (2) I never experienced anything

I: hmhm (1)

P: hm (2)

I: ok, we're still in the year '33. Can you remember - you were already grown by then

P: yes

I: um, to the overthrow in January #'33#?

P: #yes, as said# I was in the hospital

I: yes

P: hm

I: and how did you hear about that, or #how did you experience that#?

P: #yes, well I received# the newspapers

I: uh-huh

P: um, so I could read it and depending, one of the nurses or the doctors, um, was for or against, so he (1) explained with high doubts (2) um (2) I can't say it (1) so exactly anymore (3) they were, let's say, generally, I believe, and this is not just my opinion (1) they were sick of the other governments that had by now more or less tried several times and they didn't believe they could make it

I: hmhm

P: and didn't believe that he could make it either (1) but they said, should he try it now, hm, then everyone was on the line and maybe they would come together

I: hm

P: and try it *together*
I: hmhm
P: hm (1) that he naturally made so much out of it,
first in part good, and afterwards the other,
they didn't know that
I: hmhm
P: hm (1)
I: back to your hospital room and your hospital bed. How
did that look from there? If you could just place
yourself back in that situation
P: well, it was a typical hospital room
I: no, I mean jus simply the- your experience to this
time-
P: yes
I: to this time, to this political time, so,
subjectively, how did you asses it as somebody who was
now also unemployed for a long time?
P: yes, yes we just had hope that somebody could do
it ((inaudible)) everyone before
I: uh-huh
P: hm, just like now, hm, everything that they
promise but don't stand by, hm, specifically
think about not at all *how* they can do what they
promise, but also what they can produce
I: uh-huh
P: hm, damn similar often, damn similar
I: hmhm, you mean like back then?
P: yes (2) hm (2)
I: what are you thinking about specifically?
P: well, the many fights - directly election
propaganda
I: hmhm
P: hm, the ones that I hear and read about now in in
Bavaria as well as other places (2) is really
nothing, I mean, one of them says this, and the
other *doesn't* say that, but *how* they come to it,
up until now, no one has said
I: to what?
P: and where they take the money to - no one has
said that either
I: hmhm
P: what the SPD (German Socialist Party) proposes
costs money
I: hm
P: hm, and now they act as if billion were there
simply to throw away
I: hm

P: hm (2) it's nothing
I: and that reminds you the also of -
P: damn right that reminds me of it
I: uh-huh
P: one thing - back then it was maybe much - um more
I: yes
P: there were *many* fights in the streets
I: hmhm
P: in Berlin above all
I: uh-huh
P: hm (2) and in the beginning it was not only the
NSDAP (National Socialist German Worker's Party)
or the SA (Sturmabteilung) against the
communists, but every party against the other
I: hmhm
P: it made no difference whether brown or red or
yellow or black or whichever color (1) hm, this
time I think it's better.
I: hm
P: hm, otherwise it's damn similar
I: hmhm (1) did you ever experience a street #fight#?
P: #no# no
I: hm (2) when you remember those times, when you came
out of the hospital
P: yes (1)
I: what was the first situation where you thought,
something has changed? (2)
P: I didn't notice anything in Weilendorf
I: hmhm
P: our house was removed then (2) and um (1) I
hardly came in contact with people
I: hmhm
P: hm (2) then when I (4) got my strength back, I
went walking a lot, but, um, in the direction
((inaudible)) not any more
I: hm
P: and (1) I hardly spoke with anyone
I: hm, good, but the time of the **Rekonvalesenz** had come
to an end and #you#
P: #yes# um (1) naturally I read the daily paper and
had (2) in part or was to an extent shocked over
the people that were there all of a sudden
I: hmhm
P: hm (2) the ones that (2) so far as I knew them
(2) never thought anything of
I: hmhm

P: hm, whether the town leader or (1) whichever kind of head or leader
I: hm
P: hm (1) um (2) so that was (2) somewhat alarming, but
I: can you remember a concrete example?
P: no no (2) at the moment I don't know anyone any more
I: hmhm, that was then related firstly to the local level?
P: ((inaudible)) local and what so and so from Württemberg #said#
I: #hmhm# (2)
P: for example the, um, prime minister, (Merkentaler)
I: hmhm
P: was a fraternity brother of mine
I: hm
P: hm (1) and, um, they, well besides the fact that he didn't get along with Adolf (1) and *basically* was to be ousted
I: hmhm
P: but for some reason or another he stayed
I: hmhm (2)
P: um, shortly before (1) my stay in the hospital I went, um, walking with him, um, to a *pub* in the evening from, um, Zuffenhausen to Korntal
I: hmhm
P: and it was claimed there um, um, he talked me to death I should join the party without a doubt. We talked like humans and very sensibly
I: hmhm
P: and why he didn't get along with Murr
I: hm
P: with the regional leader
I: hm
P: was clear to me and from that which I knew about him (2) contrary to Murr it was clear to me that Murr didn't have any quality
I: hmhm (2)
P: hm
I: hm
P: but, the highest official of Baden-Württemberg, um, from Württemberg was ((inaudible))
I: yes ((inaudible))
P: Merkentaler was Prime Minister
I: yes

P: and Murr was the regional leader
I: hm (2) and, um, this talk, later it meant that that-
he talked your ear off, right?
P: no
I: ok
P: never, never
I: no, because you just mentioned that he- that someone
had observed-
P: um, it was explained many times
I: hmhm
P: later he left because Adolf demanded that his
officials [**dass sie äh Satisfaktion mit der Waffe
geben**]
I: hm
P: and that was- is of course in our conception not
in correlation with party ideals
I: hm
P: so he had to leave
I: hm
P: so that he, when it came to it, could take up a
weapon
I: hmhm (2) so he left the society
P: he left, yes
I: ok, hm
P: and so it was naturally discussed in the society
circles and it was claimed (1) that he talked
your ear off to get you to join the party (2) but
not to *me*
I: hmhm, so it was just generally
P: yes
I: gossip that was not directed towards your
((inaudible))
P: no no=no no=no
I: ok, hmhm (1) so, you also joined the party then?
P: Me? Never!
I: so not
P: because I had that letter that said I wasn't fit
for the party
I: oh yes (2) oh, I thought that you did join the party
but were #thrown out later#
P: #no! Never! Never!#
I: I see
P: and nobody wanted anything else from me
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm (2)
I: ok, now we can maybe get to the interviews
P: yes

I: um, you of course then went to Berlin
P: yes
I: and can you also remember the interview the first time
in your future- for your future job?
P: y=yes. I honestly don't know when it took place
Anymore (2) the forerunner of the Department was
later killed in a cleared out *jewish bank*
I: hmhm
P: but I believe the interview did not take place
there, but I don't know anymore (2) um (3) it was
a normal interview. The boss at that time wanted
to know what I studied (2) what I majored in (2)
and 92) ((inaudible)) become familiar with where
I come from and so on and, um (2) what I imagined
as my new tasks
I: hmhm
P: hm (2) and then he told *me* what *he* imagined and
then we said, yes, it could be like that, or I
might do it a little differentl
I: hmhm
P: hm and (1) we were agreed relatively soon the (2)
personal stories then with the with the
administration took longer
I: hmhm (2) and what were the tasks tat were presented to
you?
P: frst I had to (2) develop, um, the Development of
the Rescue and Safety Devices (1) parachutes,
fire extinguishers, breathing devices (2) and in
addition, to develop something that is necessary
for hangers
I: hmhm, the maintenance (2)
P: um, the maintenance devices
I: I see
P: or high altitudes, hm
I: I see
P: oxygen provisions (3)
I: hmhm (2)
P: things such as that
I: so you ((inaudible)) the #rescue devices#?
P: #rescue and safety devices# was the name of the
report
I: yes, uh-huh, hm
P: hm (3)
I: so after that long waiting period, um, you went to
Berlin?
P: yes
I: finally, huh, and then you began. Can you remember

those beginning times in the Department?

P: yes, like I said, um, hm, first of all I went to the **[Dienstzimmer]** and tried to determine what was already there

I: hmhm (1)

P: and then I organized a little bit with ((inaudible)) and, and, and, *then* relatively soon afterwards was the general meeting about *everything* already available ((inaudible)) of the technical department

I: hmhm

P: and I noticed there that their hands lay on their pant seam, which I didn't like at all

I: hmhm

P: first because it looks funny in civilian clothes, and second, I knew then **[daß ich auf'm falschen Pferd sitze]**

I: hmhm

P: hm, but um (1) the civilian pilots were needed as well (3) and consequently I initially (3) participated willingly and I (2) tried to give my best until I noticed that I would probably be hindered by my glasses in my career

I: hmhm

P: and then I tried to get out for the first time (1) with a ((inaudible)) answer and the second time I tried it after an uncle of mine died and it was discussed within the family if should take over the business

I: hmhm (1)

P: and, um, then it was explained to me, that you have a contract with the state and you can't ever give notice again in our life

I: hmhm

P: the state can fire you (1) I you've committed a crime, otherwise not

I: hmhm (2)

P: and then, um, (1) after that decision, I participated so that I was taken by the **[Beamtenverhältnis]** so until then I was an employee in the Aviation Department

I: hmhm (1) I see, and nevertheless they said that you weren't allowed to leave?

P: yes

I: hmhm

P: whoever had a contract with the state

I: uh-huh

P: was not allowed to. Period. (1) and, um, hen came the forerunners for the **[Verbeamtung]** so I had to play recruit at first

I: hmhm (2)

P: in order to become a candidate of officer

I: hmhm (1)

P: so, the recruiting time was three weeks and twice two months reserve training

I: hmhm (3) that means that the Aviation Department was basically a military organization? (2)

P: for the most part. It had five offices

I: hmhm

P: of those, four were military

I: hmhm

P: and one had to work with the Lufthansa problems with air-um airports and such, a civilian section ((inaudible)) with whom we also did however have a lot to do

I: hmhm

P: hm and when I had to set up an oxygen system, I naturally came into close contact with them

I: hmhm, ok, and your tasks were, or you're your area or you're your task area was basically the management of the department?

P: u=um- I was a *relief* speaker **[Hilfsreferent]**

I: hmhm

P: I had a speech

I: uh-huh

P: as the first official (2) the instance was that a **[Gruppenleiter]** who made all the equipment problems

I: hmhm

P: because of that, the department manager **[Gesamtentwicklung]** he was in charge of planes and engines and weapons and (2) um **[ja also uns Geräte]**

I: hmhm

P: and, um (1) ground devices, vehicles and such, and that was the one from Richthofen

I: hmhm! Yse (2) so there were three levels above you so to speak

P: one, two (2) the third, correct

I: yes

P: ((inaudible))

I: hm, and so you stayed there for #a while#

P: #no no# they shoved me around everywhere

I: hm (2)

P: maybe because I well, because of the glasses
couldn't stay for the long run or or advance
I: uh-huh
P: then I (4) when was that (5) '38 (2) I went to
the general staff
I: hmhm (3)
P: and it was really due to a crazy thing (1) I was
supposed to (1) um (2) move up two levels
I: hmhm
P: and the ground devices, well, vehicles, cranes
and (3) well, transport devices of all possible
sorts
I: hmhm (2)
P: I even gave up my old job, but wasn't at my new
one yet
I: hmhm
P: and at that moment, the general staff met an
engineer (2) for special tasks within the general
staff
I: hmhm
P: and so my staff manager said, *he* is ready and
((inaudible)) and he'll go
I: hmhm (1)
P: it used to go like that earlier, that you
couldn't say much in regards to it and then I was
gone
I: hmhm
P: and for the (3) first half of the war
I: hmhm
P: I was in in a bunker (2) town near Potsdam in the
forest
I: hmhm (3)
P: and so my family was alone and I came home
occasionally on (1) Saturdays or Sundays but
almost never anymore
I: hmhm (2)
P: which my wife will later tell you sorrowfully
I: hm (1) ok, that means that you really ((inaudible))
under the highest grade of security-
P: well, that anyways
I: anyways
P: that's just how it was in the Aviation Department
I: uh-huh
P: *almost* everything was secretive it was (1)
nevertheless, too much was given away
I: hmhm (2) for example ((inaudible))
P: yes, one thing that I can't prove

I: hmhm (1)
P: um (3) Udek was later the head of the technical
division
I: hmhm (5)
P: and had a driver
I: hmhm (2)
P: and when Udek committed suicide (2) the driver
was (2) hm, well (1) handled somewhat cautiously
by the Germans
I: hmhm
P: shall we say (1) and *after* the war I met up with
a former colleague and he said to me, do you know
that that Udek's driver was once a Russian agent
I: hmhm (2)
P: I said, how do you know that? Yeah, we don't
know exactly, *but* it's rather conspicuous that
that driver became the driver of the Russian
commanders three days after the Russians came to
Berlin
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm (2)
I: uh-huh (2) ((inaudible))
P: to think that in the car where Udek let's say
drove home
I: uh-huh
P: or drove to some kind of meeting, *with* a guest

[Tape 3/5, Side A]

I: that means that it was basically strongly forbidden
for those in the Department to speak about their work
P: yes, yes #of course#
I: #even when# you've taken care of these, um, safety
precautions
P: yes
I: did you still have to keep that a #secret#?
P: #yes, yes# of course
I: hmhm
P: almost everything there was ((inaudible)) we- um,
we each had a room
I: hmhm (1)
P: which had an armory chest in it
I: hmhm
P: principal came first - not to look after your
work time, but a clean table
I: hmhm
P: *everything* had to be in the armory chest

I: hmhm
P: hm, *and* whatever could possibly be done, what could be taken care of on *that* day had to be done
I: hmhm
P: hm, and <<clears throat>> and, um, I believe that that was also an *inner* teaching for all concerned
I: hmhm
P: so all in all, it happened like that
I: hmhm
P: hm, when I hear today (2) um, how it functions now by the authorities
I: hmhm
P: or also how it functions in, in companies (1) and the files lie there in *piles*
I: hm
P: and half of it is done, and I don't know what all (2) doesn't sit right with me
I: hmhm, with you everything was always ((#inaudible#))
P: #wha- what happened# and like I said, work time was
I: hmhm
P: work time
I: hmhm
P: hm (2) to take care of things
I: uh-huh (1)
P: um, shortly before my retirement, a decree came out in Koblenz (3) that the people should keep better working hours
I: hmhm
P: and then some were written up - today staying one half hour too long in the office - it was in the interest of the work to go home on time because otherwise you could possibly get sick earlier due to the strain of the extra hour and become a burden to the state
I: hmhm
P: hm
I: <<laughs softly>>
P: *here*, it's crazy, hm, surely every person doesn't work like the other
I: uh-huh
P: one will finish it in a shorter time and the other one needs longer, but that one limits himself the *other* way around [**aber dass man, umgekehrt begrenzt**]
I: hmhm

P: hm, of course you should hold one to doing it within working hours, but if he doesn't make it - it all depends on the work

I: hmhm (2)

P: hm

I: hm (2) and you were raised in that context ?

P: uh-huh

I: ((#inaudible#))

P: #yes#

I: you mentioned that that you were a recruit and then a reserve, um, officer

P: yes, I am an officer, but was never more

I: uh-huh

P: but ((inaudible)) and that was in the air force. It, um, was called the Engineer corps of the Air Force

I: #Engineer Corps of the Air Force#

P: #we ha- yes# we had a mil- a military ranking

I: hmhm

P: and military uniforms, but we were not officers, we were officials

I: hmhm, and for these military, um, careers, or something, these, these increases in rank, did you also do drill? So, were you really then trained #for the military#?

P: #yes, yes# I had, as was said, the recruit time and two Reserve ? (**Reserveübungen**)

I: hmhm

P: hm, and then came the war, otherwise I would have had to do another, um, one or two more **Reserveübungen**)

I: hmhm, and then become a #non-commissioned officer#

P: #no, n-#

I: then an #officer#

P: #become# an officer

I: uh-huh

P: become a lieutenant

I: exactly, and then that actually #worked#

P: #yes, it wasn't good enough anymore#

I: hm (1) so that was a- <<coughs shortly>> pardon ((inaudible)) around the time of '33 to '39 or is there anything else ((inaudible))

P: Yes, the recruitment time was (3) '36

I: hmhm (3)

P: and then the **Reserveübungen** '37 and '38

I: hmhm (3) you said, um, that that inwardly you had the wish to go away from here trained

P: yes
I: um, do you remember a situation where it was very clear for the first time (1) that you
P: yes, um, I guess it was a formal thought
I: uh-huh
P: #like I said with the#
I: #with the, with the glasses#
P: with the glasses and (2) um (2) *maybe* also a little bit (2) of beginning criticism about what one heard through rumors about the Party and other things
I: hmhm
P: hm
I: do you have an example of what you heard during that time?
P: no
I: hmhm (1)
P: um, Zatetler
I: hmhm (2)
P: one time we flew away over Wimar and there I saw the camp very clearly (1) and then (1) I had to go to the camp in Nordhausen
I: hmhm
P: where the V 2 wa- um, was built (1) to which I would like to say right away (1) I saw the prisoners (1) and I had the impression that they took good care of the prisoners there because they wanted a lot from them
I: hmhm
P: in contrast to what is in the news today that they were starved and hungry, um (1) were **geschlaucht** and and how should I know what else. I, however, from a stay of maybe two hours, didn't have the impression. On the contrary - that they were prisoners of different kinds, and there were convicts among them
I: hmhm
P: and probably foreigners
I: hmhm
P: forced labor (1) whereby I am of the opinion, as far as I could follow it back then (2) these foreign workers, similar to our so-called "guest workers" with Erhardt, were invited to come with all possible temptations (2) surely not paid as they would have been paid during peace time, but things were wanted from them (1) *relatively* well

handled. Not prisoners like the ones that sat as murderers in the **Kittchen**

I: hmhm

P: hm (2)

I: you said that the first time, you saw this concentration camp from the plane

P: yes (1)

I: can you explain it more #clearly#?

P: #no#

I: how it was?

P: well, it really went very fast, hm

I: yes, but it must have left something behind, otherwise you wouldn't remember it. A #picture or-#

P: #yes, um# back then you were allowed to fly all over the place

I: hmhm

P: hm, and, um (1) there were three of us on board and the pilot especially said that we were going to fly away over there, 'I want to know where it is, and if it's true,' so we flew over it and saw it. Today he wouldn't be allowed to do that anymore. Now he has to fly by the rules of the air, hm, and so you don't see that kind of thing anymore (2) so we saw a fenced in area and many people within the ((inaudible)) barracks all around and (2) we knew that back then they were people who were almost only c- um SPD (Socialist Party of Germany) people (2) who were, um, captured there in that area

I: hmhm

P: as long as they attracted attention as SPD ((inaudible))

I: hmhm

P: hm (2) whereby later at the Statistical County Seat (1) I had one (1) there we had to employ such, um, released prisoners

I: hmhm (2)

P: who (2) let's just say, did not exactly praise some things, but, um, expressed himself contentedly

I: hmhm

P: **[gesagt]** it really depended on how one put on his guard ??

I: hmhm (2)

P: naturally, if you were very, um, critical from the first day on and said, 'it's unfair that I've

been taken prisoner' and such, then of course he was **geschlaucht**

I: hmhm

P: but, if he said, 'we're in a war right now and (1) and so the conditions - and the other have more rights or more power than I do, so I'll go along with it'

I: hmhm

P: then it was fine, and he was released *three* times and picked up again three times

I: hmhm (1)

P: back then, hm

I: you- there were talks after the war between you and-

P: and him

I: yes

P: he was a Jew who was a sales clerk at Tietz earlier in Stuttgart

I: hmhm (1)

P: and I had to hire him ((inaudible))

I: hmhm (2) what does that mean that you had to hire him? Was there a decree or a regulation that came #out or #?

P: #um, I believe# um, well, um, we were under the Minister of Finance, who I believe was a communist

I: hmhm (2)

P: and he called by telephone somehow and um-

I: oh- so exactly this (#inaudible#)

P: #yes#

I: you-

P: yes, yes

I: um, so you had to hire this man from um ((inaudible))

P: yes

I: um, do you remember your first meeting?

P: with him?!

I: yes

P: no (1) I believe he, he was even already- no, he wasn't there yet, he couldn't have been, I don't know anymore

I: hmhm (1) and, um, maybe you can (1) describe one of these talks a little bit more exactly (2)

P: ((inaudible)) <<laughs>>

P1: ((inaudible))

I: your husband maybe?

P1: ((inaudible))

P: you can give me a sip

P1: and you don't want any?

I: yes, sure, when you're getting it already
P1: I can do that (2)
I: can I help you with anything?
P1: no thank you
I: so engrossed ((inaudible)) (2) So, you said the, um, Jewish colleague talked to you about his time there. can you- I mean you must- how did the topic come up?
P: um, somewhere while drinking coffee or something we talked about it
I: uh-huh
P: it naturally interested us as well
I: hmhm
P: how it really was inside
I: hm
P: huh, maybe he found a better camp, hm
I: hm
P: he was in the Württemberg camps (2) and also in the one near Hesslingen
I: hmhm
P: so he was not in the huge Dachau or something, hm, maybe they were very different, hm (2) I also experienced something (@) I was (3) I believe '44 (2) I was (2) hm, there was no other name for it, so a mission leader (**Einsatzleiter**) (1) or **Störungsleiter** (2) and surrounding areas of Augsburg were bombed
I: hmhm
P: and I had to (2) fly there with various people to see what happened and how we could get everything going again quickly
I: hmhm
P: because the production would be severely damaged otherwise
I: uh-huh (2)
P: and so we flew there and nearby was Mr. Lübke,
I: hmhm
P: later the Federal President, as a worker in charge of lodging ((inaudible)) and, um (3) when we flew into Augsburg (2) everything was burning from all sides
I: hmhm
P: and right away I (2) first of all let the Red Cross train from Munich come through
I: hmhm
P: secondly, I (1) um, instructed the administration of the military district to (1) um, bring out blankets right away so that the workers could be

accommodated because all their lodgings were destroyed

I: hm, I see

P: hm, it was completely burned and then they were brought (1) well (3) to a shooting range

I: hmhm

P: partly covered and partly not (2) which was locable and the workers were, um (2) prisoners from some camp

I: hmhm (1)

P: with a (1) SS (3) [**Sturmführer**] or something

I: hmhm

P: maybe a lieutenant or upper lieutenant (**Oberleutenantsrang**) (2) who was *relatively* willing and such, and really thought about the people

I: hmhm

P: hm, what could we do? We- there was a Bavarian emergency replacement train- we ordered field chefs among other things

I: hmhm

P: and directed it there and and and (1) so, whatever there was to be done was done that evening

I: hmhm

P: and then I started work early the next morning one hour later as normal

I: hmhm (1)

P: because everything was all mixed up

I: hm (2)

P: I laid down to sleep somewhere and I see that a six o'clock the sirens start wailing

I: hmhm (2)

P: and saw (1) what was going on (2) the factory had started working (1) these people had cleaned up their dirty and (1) um workbenches

I: hmhm (2)

P: and a guard said afterwards that they couldn't keep the guns which the prisoners held (10

I: hmhm

P: hm (2) and then in the evening, the SS group leader (**SS-Gruppenführer**) or another one of the higher ranked came over to me

I: hmhm

P: hm, and then I said to him, we want you to work, because if our air force can't fly outside

any more, if we can't get our planes to the front
any more, then the war is over

I: hm

P: hm, he *did* swallow it, but it wasn't exactly his
opinion

I: hm

P: hm

I: hm, well, he didn't agree that they just simply work or
that they #that they ((inaudible)) the weapons
((inaudible))#

P: #no, that that we good-naturedly# came after them
and helped them

I: uh-huh

P: the prisoners had to understand the situation

I: that you basically took care of them, #right#?

P: #yes#

I: gave #them# blankets

P: #yes#

I: or something like that, I see

P: and that wasn't what he thought (2) hm

I: hm, and the thing with the weapons was- how come they
let them keep the #weapons#?

P: #well# the guards did have weapons

I: yes, of course

P: hm, and they had worked through the bombing and
were working for something like 12 hours

I: oh, so they could ((#inaudible#))

P: #they were so tired# they had been wounded in the
war or other soldiers, let's say *handcapped*
soldiers, not able to fight on the front who the
guards had to push. They were simply beat

I: hmhm

P: hm

I: and the prisoners of war-

P: and the prisoners of war could have gone through
unhindered

I: uh-huh

P: they just wouldn't have gotten home

I: hmhm

P: ((inaudible)) French or

I: hm (1)

P: ((inaudible)) were Dutch

I: hm (1)

P: hm (3)

I: ok, you also said that you (2) ((inaudible))
concretely saw the camp in Nordhausen

P: yes

I: can you explain that once again? You hinted at it earlier

P: yes, um, I can only say this, um, as we got there, a (2) work gang was marching (1) um, for relief *into* the bunker

I: hmhm

P: and one out

I: hmhm

P: and went by us and=um I had the impression there (2) that they were doing good

I: hmhm

P: nutrition-wise, they al looked completely nourished (1) red-cheeked. Of course they were prisoners, hm

I: hmhm

P: they had to do what the guards or such demanded of them, what is otherwise expected of prisoners, and especially during that time when those who weren't prisoners didn't have anything to eat

I: hmhm

P: hm (2) um=um (2) it was as clear as day and night

I: hmhm (2)

P: hm, I had the impression that they were doing well, it was- recently I read another article, I think that it's ridiculous

I: hmhm

P: hm, today's prpaganda (2) which someone writes who hasn't the foggiest

I: hmhm (1)

P: hm (1) and haven't thought over how it was or how it could have been and so on

I: hmhm

P: instead just cuts loose

I: what kind of work were you sent to Nordhausen with back then? (2)

P: yes that- that was not quite clear to me, the, um (3) I believe that I didn't have anything to do in Nordhausen *myself*

I: hmhm

P: but there was a special train with *Milch*

I: hmhm (3)

P: and I was in that, I was commanded to be there, and it went to various stations

I: hmhm

P: below Nordhausen I probably would have had something to do at another place and just because

the train went exactly along that route I was
commanded to go there
I: oh, so you didn't have anything to do with Milch?
P: no- no=no (1) I didn't have anything to do with
him
I: no. So, basically you were- went to Nordhausen as a
representative of the Department of #Aviation#?
P: #yes# (2) um, as I said, I didn't have anything
to do in Nordhausen
I: I see, so it was a #transit station#?
P: #except that the train# went to more stations and
somehow in one or two of them, I don't know
anymore, I *had* something to do
I: hmhm
P: and *through* that I experienced the others
I: hmhm, I see (1) about what year was that?
P: '44
I: That was also '44
P: yes
I: and, um, flying over Buchenwald?
P: that was still before the war
I: oh, so in the '30s, or-
P: no- no, it must have been just *shortly* before the
war
I: hmhm (2)
P: '39, maybe earlier
I: hmhm (3) hm, so now you- I want to go back to the, um,
the second, um, time where you thought to yourself
that you'd like to quit or what about the letter. You
said that one of your uncles died
P: yes
I: and the business, um, can you tell me a little more
about that please?
P: he was my father's brother #in#
I: #yes#
P: Göppingen
I: hmhm
P: who had an advertising firm
I: hmhm (2)
P: um, at almost every train station hung posters
about Chlorodont and Nivea among other things
I: uh-huh
P: that all came from him (1) he made (1)
advertisements pretty much worldwide(2) which
back then really just started (?)
I: hmhm

P: so, he had this advertising firm and he was unmarried and he, um, died very suddenly (2) and, um, then of course there was the question of whether or not the firm would continue

I: hmhm

P: and *who* (2) I was the first of the nephews, so I could have done it

I: hmhm

P: hm, the others were lawyers and teachers with little clue as to production and other things (2) but the firm was dissolved

I: hmhm, but that was the wish of your family then, right?

P: it was discussed what we should do now. He never came home from a business trip

I: hmhm

P: and his corpse was brought back later

I: hmhm

P: then came the decision about how it should go further

I: hm, and what happened to him?

P: heart attack

I: oh, not ((inaudible)) so #not somehow ((inaudible))#?

P: #no, no, no, no#

I: ((inaudible)) hm (2) and that began, I don't know when, which time period was that? Was that also before the war?

P: yes, yes, that was (1) maybe '37

I: hmhm (3) you said that then a very strong reaction came out

P: yes

I: at first and, um, later you said that the town leader interfered ((inaudible))

P: yes, only informing, um proaganda made *here* in in Weilendorf (1) which he led. He would have brought me into the Department (?)

I: hmhm, he did that during the (1) #Nazi time-#

P: #at first he didn't# have anything to do, but later during the denaziication

I: yes

P: then there was someone who *used* that

I: uh-huh

P: and let me tell you - he became a member of the *Party*

I: hm

P: hm

I: who was a #member of the Party#?

P: #I was a member of the *Party*#
I: oh
P: because he said that, because he recommended it
to me (2)
I: oh
P: so then the logical outcome was completely stupid
and ((inaudible))
I: hmhm
P: but back then there were so many rumors flying
around and a lot of people were treated *unfairly*
((inaudible)) rumors and neighborhood problems
I: hmhm
P: hm
I: so the- it was basically assumed that you were in the
National Socialist German Worker Party
P: yes, yes
I: which was also never the case at any time
P: no, never
I: hmhm hm
P: hm
I: oh, um, I'd like to go back to your time in #Potsdam#
P: #yes#
I: you said you lived in a bunker there and we still
haven't even talked about your family there, or how
the family actually came to be
P: uh-huh
I: they lived in Berlin and you #really only saw them
very seldom#
P: #yes, well# (2) but, my wife will explain that
all to you later
I: uh-huh
P: um, until (3) '43
I: hmhm
P: in '42 we had the first attack on Berlin, um, on
our *house* in Berlin
I: hmhm
P: um (1) *glass* damage, all the windows were outside
I: hmhm
P: if I hadn't take my then few-week-old son down
the stairs at the last minute, the stroller would
have been *full* of splinters (1)
I: hm
P: hm (1) but then, um (1) ((inaudible)) we didn't
have a bomb shelter, we could just stand on the
stairs to the cellar. There wasn't anything more
to it (1) and, um, then I was at the front (2)
down in Saloniki (2) and, um (4) and I had o

speak about some official business with the
 office in Berlin

I: hmhm

P: and my boss' secretary lived very close, um, to
 me

I: hmhm

P: and so I asked her how things were going, and she
 said, you don't even need to go there anymore,
 there's nothing there anymore (2) luckily, my
 family was here on vacation (2) *everything* was
 destroyed, hm

I: hm

P: there was probably not quite as much damage, as
 it amounted to afterwards, because I was, um,
 called to Berlin shortly afterwards, so I had to
 make a business trip from Saloniki to Berlin and
 I, of course, looked at what happened to my place
 (1) and one saw, in the rubble, that there were
 people there who had rummaged about

I: hmhm (1)

P: so the (1) um, so ((inaudible)) from the floor to
 the piano

I: hmhm

P: it was still there, but someone had ((inaudible))
 underneath ((inaudible)) whether something was
 underneath, and I had a bad, um-

[Tape 3/5, Side B]

P: the family was just there

I: uh-huh, the family was then made up of your-

P: three kids

I: three kids

P: then it was still three, in the meantime there
 are four

I: ah

P: hm

I: so #three child-#

P: #that# means three *again*, because one son already
 died, that son was ((inaudible))

I: hmhm

P: he died as a patent lawyer before 1999

I: hmhm (2) how dd it come to that?

P: hm, because of cancer, and *none* of the doctors
 could figure out what *kind* of cancer

I: hmhm (2) hm, did you suffer from a lot of grief then?

P: yes, yes

I: hm (3) so, he lived back then? So, there were those three, three #children in the-#
P: #back then the# three lived here with their grandmother along with my wife
I: uh-huh, so that was basically the, the last years of the war or it was-
P: that was, that was summer vacation of '43
I: hmhm
P: one of them, he oldest daughter went to school still in Berlin (1) and did one school year in Berlin and then the rest here
I: hmhm, that means that the family naturally stayed here
P: they stayed here, yes, even though they should have been sent away
I: ah
P: um, my wife will also probably tell you about that (2) um, one very nice evening a woman came (4) well, from the (2) city hall (1) my wife will tell you this later
I: hmhm
P: and says (1) early tomorrow morning the police are coming to demand that within 24 hours you and your children leave Sindelfingen. You have been put into the Berlin refuges for the 'Sudetenland.' So, defend yourselves against it. You are from Sindelfingen. You will stay here
I: hmhm
P: and so it happened the next day. The police came with a decree (1) um, people from Berlin have been put into , I believe, the 'Sudetenland'
I: hm (1)
P: and had to disappear as quickly as possible (2) but, um they stayed (2) and it was fine
I: hm, well, luckily you also had your mother here
P: yes (1)
I: If I understood you correctly before, the time in Potsdam while you lived in the bunker was in the '30s also #or was that-#
P: #um, um, that was# (2) from the Sudeten military campaign of '36
I: ah
P: no, #eight#
I: #'38#
P: '38 until '42
I: ah (2)
P: and then (1) um, they called me back to Berlin (2) no! first, I went to Saloniki

I: hmhm
P: because every, um (1) officer or army official had to have so-called time at the front
I: hmhm
P: hm, and I was not at the front and Saloniki was also not the front, but it was closer to it (1) um, and so I was sent to Saloniki
I: hmhm
P: but, they always needed my knowledge. I was called back to Berlin from Saloniki *three* times to give information or something for whichever things happened before
I: hmhm
P: hm (12) and then they realized that it made no sense so then I was moved back to Berlin again from Saloniki
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm
I: and what did this time at the front mean? (1)
P: excuse me?
I: what did time at the front mean in that situation?
P: basically ((inaudible)) a thing, the front was (2) not exactly sure anymore. From there we worked directly with them until **[die an der Front rumgeschmissen haben]**
I: hm, so you basically further organized military #aviation#?
P: #uh-huh# that was a (1) a, um **[Befehlsstab]** for the Balkan Air Force
I: aha (7) back to the beginning time in Berlin once more. Earlier you, um, said that you, um (2) were qualified for the General Staff (?) that was-
P: that was in Potsdam
I: Exactly, that was in #Potsdam#
P: #yes#
I: and *before* that, this work was really in the Safety Department?
P: in the technical office
I: in the technical office, and that was basically then a promotion #you could say#
P: #No! That's not quite# right
I: ah
P: um, it was another use of it (? - **Verwendung**)
I: #another-#
P: ((#inaudible##))
I: ok, could you explain the time in Potsdam a little more clearly, what it ((inaudible)) and what you

experienced there? (2)
P: yes (2) well (3) I was naturally with the organization of general staffs (2)
I: hmhm
P: the *big* general air force staff was made out of six departments
I: hmhm (2)
P: the so-called **[Führungsstab]** (2) who commanded when and where bombs were dropped or (2) when missions were flown (2) a section of unknown air forces
I: hmhm
P: they evaluated what they knew about the others (1) directly or indirectly, hm (2) in a roundabout way or from where wherever (2) then there was a third department which took care of the airports and grass-root organizations **[Bodenorganization]**, food (1) drink and ammunition
I: hmhm
P: oil, gas and and and, and our department (3) and then of course there was the communication department **[Nachrichtendienst]**
I: hm
P: telephones, telegrams and radio and televisions, well, there were *hardly* any televisions but, um (2) all of these technical things and our department had to replenish all the equipment
I: hmhm
P: and I had the cross-connection to the industry **[Querverbindung zur Industrie ??]** over the technical office of the troops
I: hmhm
P: so, every morning I found out (2) *which* planes or how many planes were shot down
I: hmhm
P: or had crashed or were damaged (2) or which could still be patched up
I: hmhm
P: and I found out from the industry what was finished on that day (2) and the commands went out *from my desk, who gets what*
I: hmhm
P: as replacement
I: hmhm
P: because there were not replacements for each one
I: hm

P: it wasn't in anymore
I: uh-huh
P: hm (2) I knew about the leadership staff
[**Führungsstab**] (1) where the upcoming
concentration of the attack and other things were
I: uh-huh (1)
P: and I put the (1) replacement planes into those
units
I: uh-huh
P: um (1) and the others simply had to wait until
they got something again
I: hmhm
P: hm, that was my job for (2) almost four years
I: hmhm, so basically after the war began
P: yes, um, I was already there at the "Sudeten"
campaign where it's believed that it all began
I: hmhm
P: hm (1) but, um, one really didn't have to do that
yet
I: hm (1)
P: hm (2) and like I said that was a kind of bunker
town (1) we were brought into (3) barrack-like
buildings, one-and-a-half stories high, a kind of
office
I: hmhm
P: but (1) in between the houses there were these
"sugar huts"
I: hm
P: bunkers *and* there was a (1) um bunker that went
into the mountain
I: hmhm
P: around it
I: uh-huh
P: hm (2)
I: um, you said that you witnessed Göring at the end of
the war. Can you-
P: yes, I can still ((inaudible)) good (2) um (3) he
came (4) after a bombing
I: hm (2)
P: and there was still (1 an english (1) **Luftjäger**
or **Stuka** or something flying over Werder
I: hmhm
P: and it was shot down
I: hmhm (1)
P: *and* he stood on the shore (1) in front of our
bunker
I: hmhm

P: you could really see over nicely, as if it was,
um, a parade or a Party day festival
[**Parteitagstanz**] or something, looked up and
scolded because no German plane came

I: hm (1)

P: hm (2)

I: but he didn't flee into the bunker

P: he then

I: hm

P: went past me into the bunker so that he
practically (1) touched me

I: hmhm

P: hm (3) and the last time I was with him (2) was
one day when we went down to Berchtesgaden

I: hm (2)

P: he really made what I believe anyways (2) a more
practical impression than Adolf (2) he hadn't
done a lot like, even though he was very sharp,
but he hadn't done much like Adolf for a long
time (3) um (3) first of all he (3) clearly said
what no one was allowed to say at that time (2)
when, like this morning (1) the Russians come
over the Oder then the war is over and we've lost

I: hmhm

P: hm (1) he always said that

I: hm

P: no SS man was allowed to hear that

I: hmhm

P: he would have been picked up right away

I: hm (2)

P: and then in the meeting he said, now, I've built
my soldiers nice barracks (2) with parquet floors
and everything else possible, and now when it
comes down to it they can't even (2) defend
themselves in the trenches

I: hmhm

P: if I had to do it over again I would only build
trenches

I: hmhm (2)

P: hm

I: hmhm (1)

P: yes, well (4) that was Mr. Göring

I: hm, do you also have memories of Mr. Hitler?

P: um, besides the parades and such, not really

I: hm

P: hm

I: he was near you in Potsdam ((inaudible))

P: There, um, he was never there, never, no, no (3)
I: he was more in Wolfsschanze then, hm? (1)
P: um, yes or, um, he was in Berchtesgaden
I: hm (2)
P: hm (1) that was the last bombing that I
experienced
I: hmhm (1)
P: in Berchtesgaden on his, his ((inaudible))
whereby (1) I have to say, if the Americans had
always thrown so badly as they did there, a lot
would have stayed intact by us
I: hmhm
P: because tat was not far away
I: hmhm, can you describe it as long as you're on the
subject?
P: yes, well, um, we had just come down to
Berchtesgaden fresh from Berlin (1) and (1) and
there were air-raid warnings (3) and there was no
place for protection
I: hmhm
P: probably no one believed that the, um, war would
come down to Berchtesgaden
I: hmhm (2)
P: ((inaudible)) went to the drill field
((inaudible)) we remained standing and we watched
them throwing, um, bombs up there on the mountain
I: hmhm
P: hm (1) and we only noticed that, um, the white
snow on the mountain was suddenly black
I: I see
P: all of a sudden, hm (2) and then there was a bang
and ((inaudible))
I: hm, but it hit ((inaudible))
P: there was no defense there
I: hmhm
P: hm (2)
I: hm
P: and that was the last bombing
I: hmhm, and how were you doing there?
P: yes, ok ((inaudible))
I: yes? (2) but that was then already the end of the war,
I mean, did you have the #feeling there like-#?
P: #yes, that was, that was on# the Führer's
birthday
I: I see
P: the 20th of April
I: uh-huh

P: so, ten days or (1) fifteen days before the end
of the war
I: yes (2) and what kind of things were talked about
between the people? You were basically really, um,
evacuated to there, or how should one imagine such a
thing?
P: yes and (1) then rounded up
I: hm
P: hm (1) into a (2) well, it was a camp from the
Hitler youth (HJ) or something similar
I: hm (1)
P: summer, summer camp of the Hitler youth or
whatever kind of house it was
I: hm
P: but then we came very quickly to Tummersbach by
Zell on the sea (3) um, and there was nothing
prepared there, I had an (1) office and a bed in
the gardening house of a hotel
I: hmhm
P: it was only two-by-two meters ((inaudible)) so I
also couldn't do anything
I: hmhm
P: hm (2) that was practically a lost war and
I: hmhm
P: and (1) over
I: hmhm, that means you also couldn't work #anymore#?
P: #well, we# couldn't do anything more there
I: hm
P: hm
I: hm, and what was the mood among your #colleagues#?
P: #well, it was# naturally depressed
I: hm
P: and (2) because there were members of the Party,
they had guessed that bad times were coming their
way
I: hmhm
P: I had the luck of being able to say that it
didn't concern me
I: hm
P: but (1) I nevertheless experience the
denazification here
I: hm (1)
P: which was also not exactly pretty
I: hm (2) I would like to come back to that later on, but
I didn't quite, um, understand you. You said that you
went to Potsdam in '36 and there was still no war then
#for your position-#

P: #it *should* have been, well# or was ((inaudible))
the so-called "Sudeten" war

I: yes

P: hm

I: good, hm

P: um, where (1) Hitler locked up the Czech prime
minister, um, on the, in Berchtesgaden on top of
the mountain and said, you're not getting out
until you have (??) signed this

I: hmhm

P: and all the time, the troops marched on the
borders

I: hmhm

P: and we were there in *case* anything happened

I: I see

P: to bring the supplies into order

I: oh, so you were basically already in a #waiting
position [**Wartestellung**] and#

P: #in a ready position [**Bereitstellung**]#

I: a ready position [**Bereitstellung**], and that since '36?

P: that was '36 and then we also went back to Berlin

I: I see

P: and, and, um, at the beginning, well, maybe
before the beginning of the war we came back out

I: hmhm, how did you experience the beginning of the war?
(2)

P: yes, um (2) well, like I said before (2) we were
all of the opinion that (3) Poland was provoking
Germany

I: hmhm

P: that they needed to be taught a lesson

I: hm

P: hm, we didn't, um, know that (1) it was in part
the other way around

I: hmhm (1)

P: and *on the evening* before (2) my department
leader said to me (2) I have to tell you (1) it's
going to begin early tomorrow morning

I: hmhm (2)

P: now (2) it was *always* German military policy that
attack is the best defense

I: hmhm

P: and so I supposed (3) that the political
negotiations between the two countries proceeded
so that (1) we *know* (1) what is going to happen
(1) so we'll attack first

I: hmhm

P: hm (2) and then, um, the customary attack with Stukas and bombs and such (1) followed shortly after, as if it had been a Party day tomorrow

I: hmhm

P: hm (2)

I: how do- what do you mean by that? I was never at a Party day

P: well, um, in Nürnberg there were big parades

I: hm

P: and *such* (3) real enactments of situations

I: hm

P: like we had maybe never before experienced, *but* for a parade

I: hmhm

P: hm, everyone had his job and had to remain in the best possible lines

I: hmhm

P: with the others and, hm (1) practically a circus show

I: hmhm (2)

P: hm

I: and was it so perfect #at the Poland campaign#?

P: #and so, so# it began in Poland

I: hm (2) and your job, your con- your concrete evening, so he comes and says, man, it all begins tomorrow

P: yes

I: that is, I could imagine, a really exciting situation

P: yes, yes

I: what did you do there?

P: and then I- well, at first I couldn't do anything

I: hm

P: and one day later I awaited the casualty listing *and they came*

I: hmhm

P: hm, *but* at the Poland campaign we had *more* supplies than we needed, hm

I: of course

P: *but* it turned around fast

I: hmhm

P: hm, and then my work really began, now to divide who is more important, him, or him or him

I: hm, I see

P: hm

I: so that was then much more #diffic-#

P: #and behind# the Poland campaign it was harmless, *already* in France it was *already* much more critical

I: hmhm
P: because at the same time they flew to England
I: I see
P: and not everyone came back (1) hm
I: hmhm (1)
P: and after that with Norway and such (1) there
were always more casualties
I: hmhm, and how should one imagine that? You most
likely often had dilemmas and mixed up in something
P: of course
I: because you also ((inaudible))
P: above all, the longer the war lasted the less I
could fulfill my-the requirements
I: hm
P: hm
I: hm (2) what was, if you remember back, maybe one of
the most difficult situations back then? (2)
P: I don't know that now (2) anymore (3) it varied
depending on the type of plane
I: hmhm
P: naturally, the, um (2) transport planes for the
Russia campaign were very different
I: hmhm
P: we had far too few **JU zweiundfünfzig**
I: hmhm (2)
P: which really shouldn't have even been built
anymore
I: hmhm
P: they were already cancelled (2) and (2) no
replacements were there
I: hmhm
P: and then suddenly we were supposed to build them
again (2) hm, but something like that takes some
time (2)
I: hmhm
P: hm
I: and they were also necessary
P: yes
I: for supplies?
P: from human supplies to material supplies
I: hmhm
P: and above all to get out as the, um (1) what was
that called? (7) what was the name of the-
I: do you mean Stalingrad?
P: Stalingrad, like they, like it was cleaned out
I: hmhm

P: getting out was (1) at least as dangerous as going in
I: yes, hm
P: hm, and and no planes there
I: can you remember that time, the **Stalingrader Kessel** and and that was also a pretty ((#inaudible#))
P: #yes, nothing# more than that the transport problem then (2) was fairly difficult
I: hm (1)
P: besides that there was the (1) father-in-law (2) fell right before Stalingrad
I: hmhm
P: ((inaudible))
I: yes, which you basically #arranged#
P: #yes# (2)
I: hm, how did you find out about that? (3)
P: um, his widow got an official message from the (1) battery
I: hmhm (2)
P: right
I: hm, and when you think back on yourself as, um, also an official or someone who despaired, and surely also sometimes tried to organize there. How was (1) how was this message in that situation?
P: yes, well (2) it can touch everyone in a war
I: hm
P: hm, and he was a little bit of a daredevil (3) maybe he didn't take himself into much consideration (2) but, um (3) it would have naturally been better if he had come home
I: hmhm
P: hm (3)
I: Do you know then how he fell?
P: um, not anymore
I: not exactly
P: we only know that he well- (2) we don't even know the grave
I: hmhm (2)
P: um, everything was just buried and, um, there are no recordings (3) um (2) we only know that his battery (1) could pull him in. Somehow that was apparent from the front or something (2) um, where they thought at first (2) that the enemy was coming and not them anymore
I: hmhm

P: but they still pulled him in and buried him but,
um (1) where, how, what (2) I think that hardly
any came home anyways from the unit
I: hm (2) and that was also a really horrible winter then
P: yes (1)
I: you talked about the, um, I believe your superior,
Ude, before
P: yes
I: do you still have memories of these people?
P: good
I: good #memories#
P: #and it was# about eight hours before his suicide
I: ah, hmhm
P: um (3) he was (2) or knew already by that time
(1) that he had fallen out of favor
I: hmhm (#)
P: and, um, (3) *on that day*, that was a Friday (1)
there was a meeting on that day, which he was
supposedly supposed to lead
I: hmhm
P: which he wasn't even invited to anymore
I: hmhm (2)
P: and so he called on me (2) and I had to go to the
meeting (2) and every half hour he called me up.
I had to tell him what was going on up there
I: hmhm
P: hm (2) and, um (2) I think I was there three or
four times
I: hmhm
P: by him (2) and on the next morning (2) he shot
himself during the night
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm, and the next morning I was the deputy
department head (1) I had to inform my co-workers
(1) he was in a deadly crash during a test flight
in Rechlin at ten o'clock (1) at eleven thirty I
had to tell them that one of the new weapons went
off during the test flight (1) with that I knew
that (1) something wasn't right
I: hm
P: and everyone else noticed it too
I: hmhm (1)
P: and stupidly no one told Ude's chauffeur, who I
mentioned earlier (1) that he wasn't allowed to
say anything, but he went in and out and he knew
what was wrong. He told everyone that he had
shot himself

I: hm
P: hm, and Göring said at the funeral ceremonies,
dear Udi, they even drove you to your death
I: hmhm
P: hm (1) so everything was clear
I: hmhm
P: and I know today (3) he apparently said a more
than just once that he wanted to shoot himself
I: hmhm
P: and after that his weapons were taken away in the
office
I: I see, hm
P: but on that evening he constantly had a doctor by
him
I: hmhm (2)
P: and he was boozing with him in the ap- in his
apartment (2) and the doctor went into the street
to get cigarettes at the automat (2) and (1) he
did not have the weapon, his, his-

[Tape 4/5, Side A]

<<changing of tape>>

I: that was surely aslo, um, shocking, such a, such a
death of someone who you also knew personally and also
when you get the feeling you're being sucked in
P: yes (1) unfortunately, I experienced such things
numerous times
I: hmhm
P: um (1) shortly afterwards (1) General Kablenz
I: hmhm
P: who remarked in addition that *if* he had stayed
alive and *if* (2) the war had ended shortly
afterwards, I would have probably been capable of
going to Lufthansa
I: hmhm
P: because he was the successor of Milch at
Lufthansa
I: hmhm
P: and he had, well, he though a lot of me and
confided in me tat after the war he would (1) um,
somehow take me under his wing
I: hmhm (1)
P: unfortunately, he was in a plane (2) crash during
a vacation nearby (2) ((inaudible)) the Bavarian
king's castles
I: hmhm (1)

P: he had a vacation home down there and he crashed,
and rumors came about back then that it was
sabotage (1) or the influences from a
professional opponent

I: hmhm

P: um, um (1) I can't say

I: hmhm

P: hm (2)

I: hm

P: and otherwise he was a superior pilot

I: hmhm

P: who even flew to Asia and such (2) well, he (2)
he would have probably taken me to Lufthansa

I: hm (2) and the news of your superior, Ude's, suicide.
How

P: yes

I: did you react to them? (2)

P: well, like I said, at first I had to believe,
formally believe

I: hm

P: that it was an accident, a job-related accident
(2) I really didn't believe it at the beginning,
because I knew what the atmosphere of the Friday,
um (2) eight hours earlier was like

I: hmhm

P: hm (2) that he was mad at the whole Commission
that was meeting up there

I: hm

P: and, um () so to *speak* already written off himself
and his life

I: hm

P: hm (3) but (4) that he was one of *those* who would
personally take up a weapon in that sort of
situation, which *not* everyone does

I: hmhm (1)

P: was also clear to me

I: hmhm (1)

P: he was that kind of man

I: hmhm

P: hm, he wouldn't let himself be pushed around
only, um, let's just say (1) ((inaudible)) or be
accosted or such, but for him that was the end of
it

I: hmhm (2) this Commission that you ((inaudible)) that
was ((inaudible)) Göring or was that a higher
position?

P: Um, *I don't know anymore*. I believe *Milch* was there
I: hmhm
P: but (2) our rights went so slowly over to (4) over to Todt
I: hmhm
P: hm (1) slowly but surely, Göring was indirectly dismantled
I: hmhm
P: and Todt was built up, and he had a (2) main department leader who was called Sauer back then (2) who thoughtlessly
I: hm
P: worked against everything and elbowed out what he didn't like ((inaudible)) and Ude of course belonged to that
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm (1)
I: and how ((inaudible))
P: and he was ((inaudible)) chairman of the discussion
I: I see (2) um, and you yourself were in some way ((inaudible)) affected?
P: no, no
I: were you in in any way endangered so that you were told as a representative
P: no
I: you had something to do #with it#?
P: #no#
I: never
P: no (1) I wasn't involved there; not yet
I: hm
P: they probably would have finished the day after
I: hmhm, and what was- what would you guess the decision was? (1)
P: well (2) then we have to get a little technical
I: uh-huh
P: Udek was known as the inventor of the Stuka
I: hmhm (2)
P: but Stukas only has one motor
I: hmhm
P: hm, and that's how it got around, and Udek always stood by the theory that t should be done with the big planes, ones with two motors and *four* motors
I: hmhm (2)

P: and that didn't work (2) I believe it's not quite clear today why

I: hmhm

P: because the current proportions were probably such that they didn't function

I: hmhm (2)

P: and so (1) um (2) Göring had the whole aviation industry together once, and said, um, when I die, write on my gravestone: he would have lived longer if Heinke was never there

I: hmhm

P: hm **[da wurde dem Henkles zur Schul- äh eingeschoben]**

I: hmhm (1)

P: the *motors* that Heinke built *into* his planes were tested and were acceptable for flying *horizontally*

I: hmhm

P: but all of a sudden ((inaudible)) only it couldn't fly vertically downwards (2) or it didn't always the same number of revolutions

I: hmhm

P: with something like 2000 revolutions or rotations, hm (1) when one had two thousand two hundred ninety-nine, it shook and didn't work (?) (2) **[und das wurde dem Udek in die Schuhe geschoben]**

I: hmhm

P: that he had lost a *lot* of time with this idea, this big plane prone to crashing (2)

I: hm

P: hm

I: I see, and through that then he was basically #politically#

P: #and and and# and then it was (1) was also claimed, but I don't know, and I also can't prove it, he supposedly also fell into disrepute with the SS and was even imprisoned, which in itself didn't work, the SS was not allowed to imprison a General (1) because he himself, I think it's possible

I: hmhm (1)

P: hm (2) I think it's possible that

I: hmhm

P: Udek would have been capable of it, but I don't know if it happened

I: I see

P: hm
I: and the decision had to do with the fact that it was said 92) it #won't be pursued anymore#?
P: #he doesn't fit there anymore#
I: ah
P: he probably would have been, well, they would have found another use for him (1) *far* away from production
I: hm
P: I don't know, um, a reserve military hospital in any case, #or#
I: #uh-huh, something like that#
P: he could have *also* been (2) in a veterans' home
I: hm
P: hm, but *not* as he was, head of the technical department
I: uh-huh, and that would be- you would have had to basically carry out that decision? (2)
P: No, that was the people up there- they were planning another plane
I: oh! hm
P: hm
I: I see
P: up there they had, um, built another plane
I: uh-huh
P: and I would have had to sell that plane
I: ah, and you were probably selling it as Udek then-
P: no, I was *also* relocated ((inaudible)) everything was reorganized, and we were all gone in a few days and
I: hmhm
P: hm
I: when was that exactly?
P: '41
I: '41, and where were you relocated to, to which department?
P: Um, at first, um, I believe no one knew what to do with me for a few days <<laughs softly>> um, then I went to the high command of the army
I: hmhm (1)
P: he wanted (1) so to speak, to take away Todt's power (?)
I: hmhm (1)
P: and for such a big organization (2) to built a kind of counterpart (?)
I: hmhm

P: but it didn't ever come to be, but I was supposed to be the connections man for the air force
I: hmhm, that was with Himmler then, right?
P: no, that was with, um, with a General, I believe with Beck who later
I: uh-huh
P: um (2) was by the attempted assassination, um, of the Führer
I: hmhm (2) hm
P: but, um (1) it was completely chaotic and (4) also there was no real organization any more, and no one to give commands any more
I: hm
P: everything was a mess for a few days
I: hm, and you were then practically just shoved in and you really didn't know then-
P: and then back again to ((inaudible))
I: oh, then back #again#
P: #and then I# went to Russia
I: ah, and then you pretty much just worked at the same place, or #did you then ((inaudible))#?
P: #no (2) um# (1) I got a somewhat different task in the general staff there and had to look after the technical troops that were there to keep up the planes and (1) provide them with material (2)
I: hmhm (3) and before that it was more the replacement of the #planes#?
P: #replacement# of the planes
I: uh-huh, ah, so that was then about the time where Stalingrad and-
P: uh-huh
I: that came then #first#
P: #uh-huh#
I: so you were with these technical technical troops that kept up the planes, does that mean machinery or gears, or-?
P: um, well, also vehicles
I: hm
P: mostly, hm
I: ah
P: that they had enough transport vehicles, but also reparations ((inaudible)) tools
(Werkzeugmaschinen)
I: hmhm (2)
P: welding machines, um (2) blowtorches, and that there was enough of everything there
I: hmhm and-

P: and when there was something missing or was lost
there were replacements ((inaudible))

I: hmhm

P: hm (1)

I: and that was also the job of the head of the
department?

P: yes

I: hmhm (1) was General Udek the head of the, of this
department #before#?

P: #uh-huh#

I: hm, so he basically had different head of departments

P: uh-huh

I: that he was in charge of

P: yes

I: and one has to imagine it that way, hm (2) um (3) I
want to go back to two things, that were before

P: uh-huh

I: once you talked about this letter that you received,
that you weren't fit for the #party#

P: #yes#

I: can you remember back to the moment where you received
this letter and read it?

P: ah, um ((inaudible))

I: uh-huh (2)

P: first of all, the style of it was almost fresh

I: ah

P: hm, and impossible

I: uh-huh

P: and *that* from Mr. Hess

I: hmhm

P: hm, with Hess' signature

I: I see

P: hm, um, but we were already pretty much used to
it, just like the SA (Sturmabteilung), which I
mentioned *earlier*, by the *second* order they
already referred to me as "du" (informal
address), hm, we're coming to "you" (informal)
and we're picking "you" (informal) up and "you"
will be and, hm, really *brutal*

I: hmhm

P: and, um, a *little* bit different, but this letter
belonged (1) *almost* in the same category

I: hmhm

P: hm (2) like I said, it's *too* bad that I don't
have it

I: hmhm

P: it would have been a document

I: hmhm (1)
P: hm
I: hm, and back then you were, where, um, for which reason or-?
P: yes, well
I: hm (1)
P: um
I: yes
P: hm
I: naturally
P: and I had a debate with my [**Blockwartin**] (2) about the offering box
I: aha (2)
P: she (1) came (2) and had collected for the bunkers
I: hmhm
P: for building bunkers (2) and I, I appreciated that (2) and I donated
I: hmhm (2)
P: even though we had never seen those bunkers (1) and (3) and, um, fourteen days later she came again
I: hmhm (2)
P: um, today I'd like to collect for a flag for the Club for Air Protection (**Luftschutzverein**) (1) I said, you won't get a *single* mark from me for that
I: hmhm
P: I'll tell the head of the district (**Kreisleiter**) and you *have* to and
I: hm
P: hm, there are no flags
I: <<coughs briefly>>
P: so she scolded me terribly and at the end she cried, she was obligated to deliver, I don't know how much, a hundred marks (1)
I: hm
P: hm, that how you did it back then (2) and when she didn't bring it then she would be fired as head of the district (**Kreisleiter**) and God only know what else (1) and, um, and *no* one had ever said that to her before and (2) I was challenging the Party and such and was going to report it and I said, go ahead, but you're not getting any flag money for the Club for Air Protection (**Luftschutzverein**)
I: hmhm

P: hm (2) and nothing came after
I: hmhm
P: nothing happened, maybe someone reasonably agreed
I: uh-huh (3) um, can you remember the party days, which
#you were at#?
P: #yes, I was# (2) invited to a party day in
Nürnberg as a guest since I had long since
belonged to it (4) that must have been (1) '38,
#probably#
I: #hmhm# (2)
P: it was put together out of several days (2) then
there were, on one day the head of the district
(**Kreisleiter**) and whatever else (2) on another
day was the army (1) and I was invited to a day
of the work force (**des Arbeitsdienstes**)
I: hmhm (2)
P: and I must say, just purely on the *outside* it was
impressive for the eye (?)
I: hmhm (1)
P: how (2) I don't know how many, but maybe a
thousand workers (2) marched up
I: hmhm (2)
P: and presented their spades (2) washed clean, hm
(2) that was, um, uplifting
I: hmhm
P: the speeches were already well known as you had
heard them *several* times
I: hmhm
P: hm
I: hm (1)
P: and (2) that was still before the war (2) one had
the impression (2) first off that the
unemployment was gone and the people are *creating*
something positive
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm
I: hm, somehow it's going #forward#
P: #it's going# in *this* respect forwards
I: hmhm
P: hm
I: hmhm (2)
P: that was (2) really *good*
I: hm (2)
P: the army day would have maybe been somewhat more
interesting even though most of it happened in
the air, hm
I: aha, because of that #for you it was-#

P: #well# you didn't see much
I: ah, I see
P: at the flying days you don't see anything (1)
I: oh yeah?
P: not much (3) I was at flying days in England and
in France (2) where half the world was flying (2)
you could barely tell the differences there
I: ah (1)
P: a little line flew by ((inaudible)) with one
motor or with two on it or with four
I: ah
P: more or less spectacle and
I: hm, oh well (2)
P: you can see them when there are set out somewhere
and you are allowed inside, which anyways almost
never happens with military planes
I: hmhm
P: hm (3)
I: later during war times were you then also at a party
day?
P: no, there were #hardly any anymore#
I: #there were none anymore# hm, uh-huh
P: there were none anymore
I: ((inaudible) um (2) I wanted to go back now to the
basis of your family
P: uh-huh
I: we, because we just talked a lot about your work
situation, um, can you just talk about how how you
married your wife #and ((inaudible))#
P: #she wants to# talk about that though herself
I: ah, I see, ok
P: #well, ok# but I don't want to anticipate her
I: I see
P: <<laughs softly>>
I: so there are still surprises on the way
P: ((inaudible)) but she already said, um, she
didn't know really what else to talk about
I: ah
P: than that and that she should just talk about it
herself
I: ((inaudible)) so you had your children in the thirties
and forties ((inaudible))
P: yes, the two daughters '36, '38
I: hmhm (1)
P: and the boy, who I talked about earlier, '42 (3)
and then '47 after the war still (2) the last one
I: hmhm (1)

P: who is now at Euro in Brussels
I: hmhm (3) aha (1) well then, your wife will then tell me a little bit more about that
P: well, I mean, I could discuss it and we have no secrets between each other but
I: uh-huh
P: um, she wants to do that (2) hm
I: even though every one can see things a #little differently#
P: #yes, yes, of course# it could be
I: I would be most of all, um, I would be, I think, still important to understand the time a little bit where you were in Potsdam and the family in Berlin, how that-
P: how that functioned?
I: yes, or rather how #you experienced it#
P: #uh-huh, well like I said# *unfortunately* for my family *almost* not visible (1) hm, and for me, I *almost* didn't experience my children (1) because when I came it was usually dark and the children were in bed (2) hm, and I was either at work at seven in the morning ((inaudible)) or I knew that my train was coming
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm (3) so, in the relationship, my wife had to go along with a lot (2) *as well* as the time where we lived together, I had a *lot* of job-related trips to go on
I: hmhm
P: hm (1) I (3) reached a *high* point where I had (1) *nine* work trips during the week
I: <<laughs softly>> (2)
P: well, um, the head of the department used to let me come and then scolded me (2) unjustly, because I was sent away for my job
I: hmhm
P: I didn't go willingly
I: aha (1)
P: false statistics
I: hmhm
P: were counted, a work day in the morning when I went from Friedrichshafen up and rode through the night, hm, then I had a work day
I: hmhm (1)
P: during the day I was *working* in Berlin and at night had to get off at Travemünde, it was three days

I: hmhm (2)
P: and *never* working
I: <<laughs softly>> (1)
P: hm
I: hm (2) but that means that #in addition you-#
P: #but I was# en route *lots* (2) or, better let's
say we were *all* en route a lot
I: hm
P: because the companies, that we looked after, from
which we, who were our customers and, um, *all*
began to
I: hmhm (2)
P: work on building air vehicles (**Luftfahrzeugbau**),
hm up until then there was nothing and then there
was *this* question and *that* question and, and this
wish and that wish and they all had to be talked
about
I: hm (1)
P: hm
I: that means you basically also still, um (1) worked as
a business expert in a certain way you looked after
#the production#
P: #yes, that went along with it#
I: uh-huh
P: that went along *with* it, hm
I: hmhm (2) that was fairly demanding as well
P: and during that the family was *alone* a *lot*
I: uh-huh (1) I can imagine that you also had to qualify
yourself quite a bit, requalify. You studied a
certain course but #those were tasks-#
P: #yeah, of course# the, um, example just came of
the high-altitude oxygen apparatus story which we
made with carriers (**Träger**) in in Lübeck, which
was essentially (1) at first foreign to me
I: hmhm
P: and in part also into medicine
I: hmhm
P: hm (1) or, um (2) and the company was I believe
at first [**Begabter**] like me
I: hm
P: they didn't do anything other than that
I: hm (1)
P: that was their specialty, *but* on the other hand I
had certain military wishes
I: hm

P: that had to be taken into consideration and they
absolutely did not please the presidents (Herrn),
hm, [und das immer wieder (1) richtig verkutteln]

I: uh-huh

P: hm

I: that was certainly also often (1) very #demanding#

P: #it# was not always easy

I: uh-huh (1)

P: hm

I: hm (2) so, um, we come to the the end of the war

P: yes

I: how did you experience that? We already heard a
little bit about Berchtesgaden

P: yes, well, um (3) we were with the staff in
Gummersbach as the division that was responsible
for Tirol reached an armistice with the Americans
and then came a beautiful moment (1) an American
soldier with his helmet cocked

I: <<laughs softly>>

P: cigarette in his mouth, painted up (1) his
carabiner hung down, around the corner and he
squinted to see where he had found himself (1)
and then we knew that we had lost the war, um,
but then we were (2) brought back to
Berchtesgaden very soon afterwards very nobly
with, um (6) cars back to the camp which we were
in before

I: hm

P: and our soldier had to pull the [Graal] around us
and then we were prisoners of war (2) and (3) and
that's where they held the interrogations (1) how
you- for example, the- *my equivalent in England*

I: hmhm!

P: who had the same job as me in the General Staff
(1) he sat across from me

I: hm (1)

P: How did you do that? (1) How did you do that?
You're lying to me, that's completely impossible.
You can't call the troops. How did you do that?

I: hmhm

P: hm (1) I told my colleague there (2) or asked,
how many casualties they had (1) and you could
have some or you could have none, hm (2) or, um,
I make this urgent and that, hm and hung up. *I*
think that's all that needs to be done. I don't
think it's even a topic. When we occupied France

I didn't know what my troops had for fourteen days

I: <<laughs>> hm (1) hmhm
P: um, so they (1) tried from all possible sides and angels- and the British 93) um, the interrogation officer

[Tape 4/5, Side B]

P: a report for one *side* (1) um, or a report for who knows how many sides ?? (1) they were let go
I: hmhm
P: the war was over
I: hmhm (1)
P: and how I heard it, I said (1) I can tell you all much more, we brought the sides together, and then three or four came later and said thank you, so now they had one *report* done 91) um, and the next day ((inaudible))
I: <<laughs softly>>
P: hm (2)
I: aha (2) well-
P: we were *authorized* by our General Staff (2) to say everything that was kept a secret with the armistice (1) over
I: aha
P: was officially cancelled (1) and from then on we were allowed to speak
I: hmhm
P: and what I had to say there for the technical part (1) was already (2) *also now* (1) after the war was lost hopelessly antiquated and (3)
I: not interesting for the enemy anymore
P: when he ((inaudible)) wants to film over there he can (2)
I: hm (3) so, you then basically cooperated there because there were certainly #also#
P: #yes, yes#
I: no possibilities then (3) um (3) ((inaudible)) (5) um, one- one thing before war time would be interesting to me
P: yes
I: um, you mentioned being transported in cattle cars through Belgium
P: yes
I: if you would describe that in a little more detail, how that #was for you#?

P: #hm, yes# we were (2) I don't know any more how many but maybe (5) at least two hundred officers
I: hmhm
P: and (3) fifty girls and one hundred soldiers
I: hmhm
P: hm, so a pretty good freight train
I: hmhm
P: and, um (2) in the freight train there was, um, straw to lay down on (2) and otherwise nothing, hm, and before leaving the camp we somehow got little field packs with food (1) and that was it
I: hm
P: hm (2) and, um, the cattle car was [verplombt] so no light, nothing
I: hmhm
P: and we only got a chink (1) and there were permanently guards standing in front of us
I: hmhm
P: and so there we knew where we were going
I: hmhm (1)
P: and as we went from Bonn down to Mainz (2) they realized that we were going back to where we came from again, Berchtesgaden (2) we didn't really believe it
I: hmhm (2)
P: and see, in Mainz, he had to go, um, here, to St-over Stuttgart to Ulm
I: hm
P: ((inaudible))
I: hmhm (2)
P: and we rode a little further and then he drove north ((inaudible)) handed over the Russians
I: hm
P: hm (1) but it wasn't that way. In Marburg there was a big dismissal amp (2) and that's where we were brought
I: hmhm
P: and then comes the interrogation story (2) three or four days later (1) and I had the luck of being let go
I: hmhm
P: or, I let myself go because I went out the right door (2) hm
I: hm, so that means that you were then sorted by higher and lower ranks and so forth. How how did you feel before you let yourself go? Do you still have memories of it as it was then #here it goes again#

P: #no, um-#
I: of the interrogation?
P: they really sorted more by (2) whether one was a member of the party or not
I: hmhm
P: you had to fill out a questionnaire with (1) something like six- two hundred or however many questions
I: hm
P: and (2) through a few main questions they decided whether it was true
I: hmhm (1)
P: and who was *by their opinion* (1) the interrogation officers
I: hm
P: who was highly incriminating came in a different **[Stiefel]** as compared to being moderately incriminating ?? or slightly incriminating
I: hm (1)
P: how he acted as a person was not taken into consideration (1) but, where he belonged based on paper
I: hm (1)
P: hm (1)
I: and as you filled out your questionnaire, **[wie war Ihnen da zumute?]**
P: um (1) it was in part false, hm, there were things there that were completely out of context
I: hm (1)
P: and then, um (3) um, we noticed that they were giving importance to things or *not* giving importance
I: hmhm
P: which by our ideas were ridiculous, and with others we noticed that, oh no (2) that will be deciding
I: hm (2)
P: hm, and were too
I: hmhm
P: hm (1)
I: what was that for you, for example?
P: um, um, for me, well, like I said they didn't *seem* to find anything special with me, because otherwise I wouldn't have gotten away so good-naturedly, hm (3) above all, I have in no way a function in the party
I: hmhm

P: hm
I: and whether they wanted it or not, almost every person somehow had a function even when *inside* (1) they were *completely* against it
I: hmhm
P: hm (1) but block maintenance man, or air quality maintenance man or something was probably everyone who for a few moments was *not* a soldier
I: hm (3)
P: hm 92) and they of course wrote that down
I: hm, that was-
P: whereby, in *my* opinion, the Americans preferred doing that
I: hmhm
P: I believe the British went about it *much* tamer
I: hmhm (2)
P: or understood t better and knew better
I: hmhm (2) and that means that your your job that you did during that time was then less #obviously important#?
P: #that didn't interest them at all#
I: as ((#inaudible#))
P: #no, they, that didn't interest them#, just the functions within the party
I: aha, hm
P: hm
I: hm (3) so you then came back to Sindelfingen, or rather came here (1) Can you describe *that* situation when you came back home?
P: <<laughs, hardly audible>> (4) I came (3) we had a special train from Marburg to Würzburg
I: hmhm (3)
P: distributed, Württemberger Bavarian, Hessen
I: hmhm (1)
P: and in Würzburg here, out of the train
I: hmhm (7)
P: and (3) there was a catholic priest
I: hmhm (7)
P: I don't know. He invited us to come to church service, or just for words of comfort
I: hmhm (4)
P: and (1) um, from there on we were on our own
I: hmhm
P: we had a note of dismissal (3) which (2) as was claimed
I: hmhm (2)

P: at any rate we were already dismissed at the train platform in Würzburg and they said, get out of here as fast as possible (1) because (3) there is the danger that you'll be imprisoned again

I: hmhm (2)

P: because over there is a camp (2) from which the prisoners- um, that the prisoners of war not yet dismissed are fleeing

I: hmhm (1)

P: get lost (1) but the camp commander in the evening has to have the numbers that are in the statistics, and he fills it up again

I: hmhm

P: so that he brings in the next best

I: hmhm (2)

P: um, so we went then and luckily a train to Heilbronn came *right* after

I: hmhm (2)

P: and naturally we used it (2) and in Heilbronn, the same thing again, the camp in Böcklinen also had a nice camp commander and everyone got out of there

I: hmhm (1)

P: but he had to have his numbers in the evening (2) and we *left* and (2) a comrade of mine was still there who wanted to go to Feuerbach I believe 91) and, um, we stopped a truck

I: hmhm

P: and he took us I believe until walking distance (2) and then we went further on foot

I: hmhm

P: we then stopped *another* car (20 and after that I don't know any more (2) I think you could go with the trolley ((inaudible)) but it wasn't working, it was still broken (4) I believe I went down the old street on foot ((inaudible))

I: hmhm

P: hm ((inaudible)) and (3) rang the doorbell at (3) around 10 o'clock in the evening (18) and was home

I: hm (4) that still moves you today

P: yes (10) yes

I: hm (2)

P: those were such horrible times

I: hm (3) and your feelings were certainly also very mixed, naturally many horrible things happened but you were so happy then again ((#inaudible#))

P: #yes, naturally, but# I knew that (1) at first it would be difficult, no income, nothing, hm
I: hm (2) hm
P: and besides for the little bit of money put aside for a rainy day, nothing had any value
I: hm
P: um, which I (3) for that I had to fight with the bank in Berlin
I: hm
P: so that they would give it to me and so *everything* was confused
I: uh-huh, hm (2)
P: broken
I: hm (3) hm (3) and you rang and then your family
P: yes
I: was here (2) hm (3) and everyone was #healthy and-#
P: #yes, luckily# they were healthy
I: uh-huh
P: and it all depended on that
I: yes
P: *me too*
I: yes (4) you were also-
P: that we were all together again
I: yes (2)
P: and then we could make plans together how we were going to cope (1) with *this new* botched up situation
I: hm (3) hm (4) you explained that a neighbor then-
P: yes
I: informed someone or something. At any rate, #how did it come to that#?
P: #yes, well# so much was talked about and and (1) um (2) whether it came to the place where they could analyze it or not, I don't know (1) but, he, um (1) *claimed* and screamed it loudly all over I had, that I was a member of the Party and had ((inaudible)) in these and these cases, when I was barely even over here in Sindelfingen, hm, except on vacation, hm (1) with the result that I, um (2) was called to emergency duty in the forest
I: hmhm
P: I received the instructions from the town hall (2) to saw wood
I: hmhm
P: and had the bad luck (1) of having to work together with an alleged Party member

I: hmhm
P: he was a **Waldarbeiter**
I: hmhm
P: and he understood (2) something about sawing
I: uh-huh
P: after a few (1) um, hours, I got a
Sehnenscheidung and couldn't do any more
I: hmhm
P: and then it was claimed that a shirker bandaged
my arm, hm
I: hm (1)
P: and then lot came, um ((inaudible)) (2) which
wasn't always very pretty
I: hm (2) what, what- what did they concretely blame you
for- the neighbor? Because you say that he claimed
this and that ((inaudible))
P: he really didn't have a reason- he saw me in
uniform
I: hm
P: um (2) and then *probably*, um, knew that I
occasionally went to the pilots here or something
(1) and that (1) brought him to conclude that I
(3) was a member of the Party
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm (1)
I: hm (4) and you think that it had to do with
neighborhood discords?
P: on the contrary. We had an exceptional
relationship with his current- um his former wife
and now his son
I: hmhm
P: and (2) but besides that, the old man was usually
drunk, um (3) he probably just wanted to play out
his power *now* as a communist because no one was
there anymore to forbid him it
I: hm
P: hm, now he thought he could play king (1) hm (2)
I: and because you just said you came in uniform
P: yes
I: or you had been in uniform in the office (1) um, and
before you explained the story with your father who
came to school in a uniform and through that had so
much authority. What did wearing a uniform mean to
you?
P: well, basically (2) let's say the recognition of
being a part of a comradeship
I: hm

P: um (2) everyone knew where I belonged, hm (1) it could be recognized by the shoulder piece (1) up to General or higher, hm or a worker who was below

I: hm

P: hm, knew where and at that time (1) everyone was uniformed whether it was SA or SS or Army of Red Cross or bombing (**Luftschutz**) or, um (1) who knows what else there was (1) everyone was uniformed. There was hardly anyone that walked around in civilian clothes anymore

I: hm

P: hm (1) as far as *that* goes, it was *good* that one could recognize on the outside where one belonged

I: hmhm (1) and what kind of uniform did you have?

P: the air force uniform

I: the air force uni-

P: as air force- the air force officers' uniform **nur der Spiegel** (1) that was different

I: hmhm

P: there were **Luftschrauben** (1) the engineer corps of the air force had **Luftschrauben**

I: uh-huh

P: hm (1) and the officers had, um, a star

I: hmhm

P: hm, but otherwise it was *exactly* the same

I: hmhm, that means it was also a uniform that had a lot of renown. The air force has always been-

P: yes, the army was the same

I: uh-huh

P: hm (1) the army officials *also* had a uniform

I: uh-huh

P: um, and they were *also* recognizable with such a, um (1) um ((inaudible)) the difference between officers

I: hm (1) yes, I mean, um, the air force, well, anyways, my understanding is that it has, um, well, a, an elite unit also-

P: they started one

I: so, one is then, um, really very proud when he-

P: yes

I: #the uniform of the air force ((inaudible))#

P: #well, it really# applied more to the pilots than to artillery or something

I: hm (1)

P: physically *alone* and (1) um (2) technically and what is carried out, hm (1) the other stays by his gun, or such, even when it doesn't work

I: hm

P: the pilot falls when not- if he makes a mistake

I: hm (1)

P: hm (1) *and health-wise*, there was a large number to choose from, people who wanted to be in the air force and couldn't be (2) afterwards they became army officers

I: hm

P: hm (2) they had other requirements

I: hmhm (1)

P: it was inevitable

I: uh-huh (1) when you look back and, um, now on this time (2) between, well, where you were employed by the air force (1) um, and think about it again- you had tried to get out due to your glasses and thought that nothing would really come of your career and really (1) from what I just heard now it all went pretty all at that time, #or how-#

P: #well, you really-#

I: would you rate it?

P: can hardly say, well, I have to admit probably (2) if the war had lasted one or two more months, um, I would have been promoted

I: hmhm (2)

P: I was close to it, but I was only promoted *once*

I: hmhm (1)

P: in the- during the *whole* twelve years

I: hmhm

P: hm (1) that was (1) no trip for *that* time

I: hmhm

P: hm (1) I had a (1) colleague (1) at first (2) he was a Lieutenant Colonel, so, two ranks *below* me

I: hmhm (2)

P: we got along good (1) he was promoted above me and was later my boss as a General (2)

I: hmhm (1)

P: hm (1)

I: and what, where were you #promoted to#?

P: #I was (2)# um, taken up to the rank of major

I: hmhm (1)

P: back then when the Engineer Corps was set up

I: yes (1)

P: I was a major and then I was promoted *once* to Lieutenant Colonel

I: hmhm- uh-huh, and then the next step if it had gone further-

P: I would have been Colonel

I: Colonel

P: yes

I: yes, hm (2) uh-huh

P: but, um, but I don't dwell on it

I: hmhm

P: <<laughs softly>> now I'm happy that everything happened that way

I: yes (1) now, of course, it would have been-

P: but in comparison to others-

I: hm

P: hm, you compare in such cases

I: yes, of course

P: hm, and ask yourself if you made mistakes (2) he became this and you didn't become anything

I: hm

P: hm (2) why, how come, hm, even *though* (2) a good deal of things play a role in it

I: hm (2)

P: right (3) the main thing is that I came out of it good

I: uh-huh (2)

P: it could have been different (2) I can tell you about one case- I had a colleague (4) who obviously (1) had had a fight about the rent, rent arguments, with his landlord (2) at home in Berlin (2) with the result (2) that the landlord reported to the police that he had said the war is lost in the bomb shelter

I: hmhm (1)

P: hm (3) and what happened? (2) the colleague was picked up, his weapons taken away and was imprisoned

I: hmhm (1)

P: hm (3) *because he* (2) said that he fought it and in order to prove that he said it (1) two neighbors were invited as witnesses

I: hmhm

P: and did you ever hear that this landlord didn't tell the truth? (2) No, we didn't, so (2) if *he* was *right* and he hadn't been imprisoned. After the war I inquired after him. He was freed from the prison from Russian soldiers (1) but it was almost the death penalty

I: hmhm

P: hm (3) and I was able to speak to *this* (1)
General, who was my colleague earlier as
Oberleutenant (2) in private, um, he said that we
couldn't do anything to make his situation better

I: hm

P: it was really *nonsense* what was done there. He
said, Kübler, if I didn't know you and know now
that you won't rat on me (1) then I would have to
arrest you right away and let them take you away
(3) hm, those were the times

I: hmhm

P: hm (2)

I: hm, and so you're happy that all in all you #got
through it##?

P: #but from then on# I watched out (2) with *him*
what I said or didn't say

I: hm (3)

P: hm (3)

I: earlier you suggested that during the Poland campaign,
for example, that one didn't obviously know anything
about that situation (2) so, *what all else* was going
on parallel to it and after the war the occupation
powers laid certain things open or also freed the
concentration camps, um, when did you really hear
about the crimes of national socialism for the first
time? (2)

P: yes, well, if you want, the flight over the camp
((inaudible))

I: good, uh-huh

P: hm

I: hmhm

P: even *though* I am of the opinion (1) that in all
states (1) and everywhere (1) first after a
revolution (1) the enemies are, um, let's say
guaranteed, whether with such primitive means as
with us, or if something more distinguished (1)
is put down ?? (1) but (2) *goes by without*
leaving a trace (1) there's no revolution, hm (1)
only that which usually resolves itself quickly
and goes by normal, lawful conditions

I: hmhm

P: and that ((inaudible))

I: hm (1)

P: hm (4)

I: yes, and um -

P: and those horrible things with burning the Jews
and so forth (1) nobody experienced

I: hmhm
P: whoever wasn't *coincidentally* there in Poland or (2) um, so to speak involved (1) they didn't know that
I: hmhm
P: the *only* thing that I knew about (2) um the breathing story (2) that a doctor in Dachau (1) it was claimed that he did breathing experiments on *volunteers*, um, I believe to establish data on limits (2) hm #so some#
I: #you're speaking about#
P: prisoners were asked whether they were prepared to participate and also I believe received something I addition (1) um and then the doctor did the experiments. *Today* it is (1) maybe even with the same doctor, I don't know, ((inaudible)) in the press, everything he had to do with the murder experiments. It could be. I wasn't there.
I: hmhm (1) you're now talking about the Cyclon-B (**Zyklon-B**), the gas which was used
P: no, normal breathing experiments
I: I see
P: #for height breath-#
I: #oh, basically# so, basically human experiments that he did
P: human experiments in order to see from what point he needs a breathing machine, um (2) and if he can breathe with an oxygen mix or if he needs *pure* oxygen, from which height can he *only still* breathe with pure oxygen (2), we asked these things *technically*, dear doctor, tell us how my machines have to be made (**künftig**) (1) so that the pilot who uses it up there comes back down healthy (2) and so he (1) did *human* experiments (1) with prisoners, allegedly with volunteers
I: hmhm, and that was known back then (1) #at that time?#
P: #that was (1)# spoken of openly
I: uh-huh (2)
P: hm, but when it surfaces in the press today or when the subject comes up (2) I don't know
I: hmhm, and when did you hear about Auschwitz, or about the huge #extermination camps?#
P: #first after the war# first after the war
I: hmhm (4) <<the wife of the interviewee asks something>> we're almost done, yes, yes
P1: ((inaudible))

I: oh, I ((inaudible))
P: <<laughs>>
I: ok, so then we're slowly coming to an end. I just wanted another time to- we're not long into the time after the war and
P1: ((inaudible))
P: <<laughs>>
I: on the contrary
P1: ((inaudible))
I: no, I just want to ask two more closing questions

[Tape 5/5, Side A]

P: ((inaudible)) #for today#
I: #come to the point# yes (3) it would interest me as a next-to-last question, how the, um (1) how you heard about, about Auschwitz or, um, #other camps#
P: #I really don't know# I believe the ((inaudible)) here in Sindelfingen
I: hmhm
P: not before
I: hm (2) and was it then discussed? (3)
P: I also can't remember that
I: hm (3)
P: I also can't remember that
I: hm (3)
P: at any rate with the (1) jews that I mentioned earlier, we did *not* handle that subject
I: hmhm hm (2)
P: ((inaudible)) obviously of course, there were various camps, um (1) anyways the extermination camp was special (1) um (2) and it *probably* did depend on (1) on its view (**Ansicht**) and type
I: hm
P: because I noticed it in that case (2) Augsburg and surrounding areas (2) with the young and old
I: hm (1)
P: differences of view (**Ansicht**) (1) and a concept difference
I: hm (2) good, then I would like to come to an end and ask you again at the end, when you look back on your life, what, what was the most difficult time? What would you say was really, or the most complicated situation #that you found yourself in?#
P: #well, just the relationship then (2) that you were away from the family or almost never got there

I: hm
P: hm, that was naturally (2) bad *for me* and also the knowledge that it was bad for the family
I: hm
P: that was (2) difficult, but (2) if I (2) had gone out to the front lines (1) somewhere in France or (2) or something that also could have been (1) um taken prisoner and um (2) already at the beginning of the war somewhere, put in a fixed place somewhere (I would have never have come home at all) at least this way I could go home almost every week (1) one day or a night
I: hm (1)
P: so in that respect I *still* always had it better than the soldiers on the front line
I: hm (2) and what would you say was the most wonderful experience, or most wonderful time?
P: the comradeship (1) was surely nice in the air force ministry at the beginning
I: hmhm (1)
P: hm, it was like a big family (3) ranks were ignored (1) hm, you also didn't know because they were still in civilian service
I: hm
P: hm, and um (2) even the superiors didn't pick out the superiors
I: hm (1)
P: hm, at least I didn't experience anything of the sort (1) maybe there were cases where (1) they had to take drastic measures and then performed accordingly
I: hm
P: but, um (3) that was, um, surely good
I: hmhm
P: hm and (2) you then saw (1) peaceful successes that we had an air force afterwards, an achievement within ((inaudible)) about four years
I: hm (1)
P: hm (3) with that which it accomplished
I: yes
P: you could even say that our whole populace would have (2) after the *accomplishments* that it made, earned more than the lost war
I: hm (2)
P: but (1) of course things came in between (2) and intelligent people were needed which we didn't

have everywhere (2) hm (1) and even when I think about Mr. Rippentrop (2) hm

I: hmhm (2)

P: who was of the opinion that England would stay in peace and France would stay in peace and that American also had soldiers he probably didn't even know

I: hm (2) he guesses it wrong hm (2) ok, I thank you and would like to simply ask as the very last question to hear again how was the interview for you (2) today?

P: maybe I talked too much

I: no, not at all, it was very (2) very #in- interesting for me also to listen#

P: #well, I hope that you# had success for *the* goal which you set for yourself (1) and, um (3) I believe (2) I told you what I (2) could and wanted to to the individual subjects (1) and (2) in case you later have a question as you're preparing it or later you can ask me short questions

I: exactly, then I'll come again or phone again and ask once again more specifically, at any rate, first of all thank you very much and I found it very informative also for me, and, and I think very appropriate for archival purposes naturally because you-

P: do you possibly have any contact to the archive in Freiburg

I: no (1) with that- #I know what you mean#

P: #military archive#

I: this military history archive, do you have contact with them?

P: I, um, somehow corresponded with them *twice*, but I don't know anymore today who is there

I: hmhm

P: because they have retired, the ones-

I: who were there before

P: bosses or the people I (1) knew on the telephone

I: uh-huh

P: I didn't know them personally either

I: hm

P: hm (1) but they probably would have naturally (1) or most likely have written documents about it

I: yes, of course, with certainty

P: hm, and work similarly to you

I: hmhm in part they work naturally a lot with the

archives or with written materials and for us it is also simply about the eye witnesses reporting from their point of view and that it stands by itself without someone immediately saying that it's true or not

P: yes

I: but it should stay within the large picture (2)

P: good

I: *good, thank you very much*

P: you're welcome

I: I hope it didn't burden you too much

P: no, no

[End of Interview]