An Interview with
Carel Sellenraad
OH 243

CHARLES BABBAGE INSTITUTE
CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF INFORMATION PROCESSING

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA USA
An Interview with
Carel Sellenraad
OH 243

Conducted by Lee H. Allen
1982-1984
Grosse Point Farms, MI

Charles Babbage Institute
Center for the History of Information Processing
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Copyright, Charles Babbage Institute
Abstract

In this wide-ranging interview, Sellenraad describes his long association with Burroughs Adding Machine Company, and the impact of World Wars I & II on the sales and service of calculators, and adding and bookkeeping machines in Europe.

Subjects include: Sellenraad’s emigration from Rotterdam, Netherlands to the United States prior to World War I; his employment as a Burroughs salesman after a succession of jobs; his volunteering to serve in the Expeditionary Force and experiences in Europe during World War I; his work in international advertising for Burroughs upon his return to the United States; his return to Rotterdam to work with a Burroughs agency; his management of the Burroughs sales force in the Netherlands after 1938 and through World War II; and conditions in the Netherlands during World War II.
My name is Carel Sellenraad
171 Ridgemont Road
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236

LHA - The first thing I would like to discuss is your career with the Burroughs Corporation. Can you tell us how you happened to come to America and start work with Burroughs - what led up to it?

OPA - That's quite a story, because I didn't come to America to work for Burroughs, I just landed at Burroughs at the end of my development and so when I came to America I had nothing. I had $50 that I borrowed and because you had to have $50 to get into the United States. In those days the countries of the world were really free. You could go wherever you wanted, you could work wherever you wanted, you could send money wherever you wanted, you could sink the money into foreign whenever you wanted, the situation was free.

LHA - Is it true, I believe I heard that you borrowed the money from the man who became your father-in-law?

OPA - That is correct, and a friend of his.

LHA - I presume he lent you the money so you would get out of the country and stop bothering his daughter, is that the case?
OPA - I wasn't bothering his daughter, because I was only 18 years old and my mother had impressed me with the fact that if you get too early engaged to a girl or too close to a girl, that would hamper your career, you can't pay all your attention to your development, so don't get involved with a girl too early.

LHA - What year was it you left

OPA - In 1911. Before that I was working in my father's business and my father was of the opinion - he very often said so - "knowledge is power", so the knowledge I did get, he got only a primary education, and he felt that he was fallen short in certain things, so if I had a better education, I had a better chance, so he sent me to a business college after my schooling and in school, of course, we learned the languages very well and a lot of other things and so in the business college I learned correspondence in four languages, I learned shorthand and commercial arithmetic, bookkeeping, and what have you. So, after I graduated from that school, I came into my father's business, I wanted to apply the things that I had learned.

LHA - What was his business?

OPA - His business was a retail store in dairy products and other things.
LHA - This was in Rotterdam?

OPA - In Rotterdam, that's correct. And so I worked in the store and I attended to the customers and I did things that had to be done and I wanted to get our bookkeeping up to date, my father never knew at the end of the year exactly how much he had earned and how much he had spent over or below whatever he had earned, so I wanted to make an accurate calculation, but I was only a young boy, of course, and I didn't see how I could fix it without my father calculating the value of the inventory and he postponed that all the time and I got disgusted with it and I felt I should go out for myself. Then I heard that we had a cousin with the whole family moved to America. And we got letters from them stating that the average wage was about $10 a week and board and room was $4 a week, so you would save $6 a week; so, I figured that in a year's time I would save 52 X $6 - that is $300, so I could go to America stay there for a year and then come back if I wanted to and then I would have a lot of experience richer and so then I heard that a lady and friend of mine an aunt of mine and she had a friend and that friend had gone to America and she had come for a visit and she had met some people on the boat that came from Kalamazoo and they were going back in September and
so, if I could go back on the same boat, I would have, at least, somebody to help me if I had any trouble, so if I needed help, so I decided to do that.

I called the Holland America Lines and for 146 gilders which was at that time about $50.

LHA - That's one way?

OPA - One way - I could get a ticket second class on the boat to New York and then a railroad ticket on the Lackawanna Railroad to Detroit, complete for $50 and that was pretty cheap. In other words, I could go back and forth and I would coming back still have $200 left over. That's a nice calculation.

LHA - What boat did you come over on?

OPA - I came over on the boat on the American line - I think it was the Nordom.

LHA - Nordom - how long did the trip take in those days?

OPA - Two weeks

LHA - Two weeks to cross -

OPA - Yes, two weeks to cross and we arrived in New York. There were no formalities practically, all they did was look into your eyes to see whether you had a certain disease that they could discover in the eyes and if that was okay they just let you go.
LHA - You had to prove that you had some money though, didn't you?

OPA - They didn't even ask me. Fact was that I came here as Dutch National and a friend of my father said, wouldn't it be wise for you to get a certificate of your citizenship and I thought that would be good, you didn't need a passport, you didn't need any paper really to go to America or to go anywhere. The world was free then. So I went to the city hall and for 50¢ I got a certificate of citizenship that I could use if there was any question at any time as to what kind of a citizen I was, but I have never used it and nobody has ever asked for it. I think I still have it.

LHA - This you got at the city hall in Rotterdam?

OPA - I got it at the city hall in Rotterdam.

LHA - Were your mother and father in favor of your making the trip?

OPA - My father was very much against it, because he thought that I had his name, his name was Carel too, and so he had expected me to follow him in the business and build it up and make it work, maybe and lo and behold before I really was mature I left him already. So he was very much disgusted with it that I was going to leave.

LHA - What did your mother think about it?
OPA - My mother felt that she realized that I wasn't really happy about being there and she realized that it may be better for me to go, although it broke her heart to see me go. So, anyhow, I went and got on the boat and the next morning I thought well I'll look out and see the sea and everything else and I looked out and there I saw the houses of Kickaaidam, which is a town between Rotterdam and the seashore.

LHA - Excuse me, I wanted to ask one thing, you had three brothers - were you the youngest?

OPA - I was the second

LHA - Who was the oldest?

OPA - Hendrick

LHA - He had already left home?

OPA - Well he was an engineer with a shipping company on a boat on a ship

LHA - At that time he was?

OPA - At that time he was, so he was home and he left on a trip and then he stayed away for three months, maybe - the boat went back and forth in the Dutch East Indies and other places, so he came home between trips and stayed home for awhile and then he went again. So he was not home at the time I left. My other
two brothers, of course, were - they were Saulder (?) and Johann and so there
four of us, all four boys and so my mother brought me to the boat and after I
showed her around, she said good-by. As she left she was very brave, she didn't
show any signs of emotion, but she undoubtedly had some greater emotions than
I saw at that time. Then my father came in the evening after the store closed
the store closed pretty late - he came to say good-by
and then he left. Then the next morning, as I said, instead of being at sea,
the boat had run aground. We had to wait for the tide to go up so it could
get loose again.

LHA - You left from Vasilian (?) Rotterdam?

OPA - Yes, and we didn't go any further than about an hour or so and it got
stuck - the river wasn't deep enough evidently and it got stuck, so the
boat didn't get off, of course, until later when the tide came up and it got
loose and we went out to the sea and right across the ocean. We had some pretty
tough weather - storm - in the Northern Atlantic you usually have a storm. Every
time that I went over there - went across after that, we usually had some kind
of a storm. So we went to the United States and then we got to Kalamazoo and
there the people said well you better take a taxi and go to the destination you
were supposed to go to - which was 210 Ball Street.

LHA - How did you get from Detroit to Kalamazoo?

OPA - By train

LHA - What railroad was it?

OPA - Lackwanna

LHA - Lackwanna brought you to Detroit, but went on to Kalamazoo?

OPA - Went on to Kalamazoo. The arrival, of course, was interesting. My cousin was a widow and she took care of the household as she had some grown up boys that left Holland because they had a farm but the farm would be sufficient to maintain the boys but they couldn't start a family there, so that's why they came to Kalamazoo as well. So I went to the YMCA, as a matter of fact, Mr. Brock met me in -

LHA - Terbrock? Terbraak.

OPA - Yes, Terbraak and he met me at the boat with the YMCA secretary by the name of Mrs. Stevens.

LHA - They met you in New York.

OPA - They met me in New York and conducted me to the Lackawanna station in New Jersey and in New Jersey, of course, I got in the station and I thought
that everybody could earn $10 a week and lo and behold there at the station
I saw a hobo sitting there, ragged clothes and in bad shape and I thought, gee
how is that possible - this man must be poor    - well, I don't know - we'll
see and so I got to Kalamazoo and went to the YMCA secretary and he told me
there was a man somewhere at the R. C. Spring Company -
LHA - R. C. Spring Company?
OPA - D'arcy Spring Company - but what's the idea here - you want to hear the
whole story - you will be here still at midnight -
LHA - Oh, we might as well have it - I meant to talk just about starting for
Burroughs, but let's go on from where we are - how you got to Burroughs
OPA - Yes - but that's a long story
LHA - That's fine - you don't have to finish it today
OPA - So I went to this place, the D'arcy Spring Company and finally saw the
Superintendent and I said well you need a man and he said yes and -
LHA - Did he speak Dutch or did you speak English?
OPA - No, I could speak English that I had learned when I was in school, but
my English, of course, was not as perfect as that of an American. I had to
look for words, I couldn't always pronounce them in the proper manner, fact is
if you put your accent on the wrong syllable people don't understand you be-
because it sounds entirely different. At any rate, I could express myself and I could hear what people were saying and the man said well all right I need a man - come tomorrow. I was dumbfounded - because if he wants me to work for him he ought to be asking for credentials, testimonial letters and things of that sort. Here, lo and behold he said come tomorrow. So I said all right and I went home. They asked me are you going to be there tomorrow - what time do you have to be there? I said well I don't know. How much are you going to earn? Well, I don't know - I didn't know anything as a matter of fact - I didn't know how long it would take, how long I would have to work, what I would have to do. So the next morning I went to the D'arcy Spring Company with my luncheon in a little box and I went to work there. They put me to work putting with a pair of pliers putting springs into a frame. This springs were made for automobiles. The automobile industry was just starting up and the D'arcy Spring Company was making springs for Ford, so they had an order and they wanted the order to be finished. So I started to work there but I found it was very monotonous. All these people were working as long as they had to, but by the time it was five o'clock to go home, they were waiting for the whistle to blow and they were already standing holding their coats till the whistle blew and they rushed out.
LHA - What time did you start working in the morning?

OPA - Oh I think it was about seven o'clock - had to work ten hours a day and I was getting 15¢ an hour.

LHA - 15¢?

OPA - 15¢ - so I was making $1.50 a day and on Saturday we worked too, but an hour shorter because then we could go to the pay office and get our pay for the past week and we had to wait in line for about an hour, so you really didn't get home very much earlier. They docked you one hour. I got instead of $9, I got $8.85 for my weekly wage. Well I thought this wasn't getting me anywhere. I could be working like this for a long time, but that wouldn't improve my condition and that won't develop me. So I had to find another job.

LHA - Excuse me, were you living with your relatives or living at the YMCA?

OPA - I was living with my relatives. The YMCA was burned down in Kalamazoo. They were building a new YMCA.

LHA - What was the name of your relative you were staying with? ..

OPA - Klop - that was the name of my cousin.

LHA - Have you any relatives there now? Any family at all?

OPA - The Klops are still living there in Kalamazoo as far as I know. Last time
I was there a Klop living in the house where my cousin lived. Well when I was there working and plugging along, I thought I don't get anywhere I am going to quit, so I told the boss I was going to quit. But he had an order to fill and he asked me to stay there for a little while longer and, of course, I was willing to do that, so I stayed for another two weeks. Then the job was done and I could go home. So at least I was without a job.

LHA - Were these suspension springs or what were the springs for - clutch or what?

OPA - The seats.

LHA - Oh seat springs - and you put them in a seat frame -

OPA - Put them on a seat frame - that's right. So the seat frame was made of wires, the springs were attached to the wires and they were attached to the frame. So you had to take a pair of pliers, take the wire and put it around the frame and so I worked at it all day and it was kind of unpleasant work. Moreover, there were a lot of disagreeable people working there. There was one man who used to be a sailor in the Navy and he had rheumatism evidently - he couldn't move very well, so he - I tried to talk to people in order to improve my language in order to be more fluent in English, so I talked to people as
much as I could and this man had a grudge against me for some reason or other
and he told me something which I didn't quite understand and he got mad and hit
me in the face with his pliers and that hurt pretty bad I didn't thank him or
start a fight, I thought I'd better be quiet and let it go at that. But he
didn't hurt me permanently; it was just one of the bad experiences, I was a
green man and had to learn a lot of things. So after I got through with this,
I had no job and thought well, I have to try to get another job.

LHA - How much were you paying your cousin to stay at her house?

OPA - $4 a week for room and board

LHA - So you ended up with $4.85 for yourself

OPA - $4.85 that's right, which I saved, of course, as much as I could. I tried
to earn some money by making photographs. I had a camera I brought with me and
there was an old man living in the second house the same lot and he wanted to
have his picture taken. I took his picture and it looked very nice and I gave
it to him and he was very much dissatisfied. Then he came around with another
picture of himself when he was forty years younger, he said that's the way I look
I don't look like this, so he couldn't believe he was so old as he was in my
picture. Well, you have all kinds of experiences, of course, when you're a
green Dutchman. So then I happen to go to a steel plant where they make steel and they wanted somebody there and I asked them if they could use a man, but he looked at me and thought the work was too heavy for me and that I couldn't do it.

I'll try - what somebody else can do, I can do. He said all right come tomorrow.

It was all very easy - so tomorrow morning I went over there and I had to carry steel bars and they were loaded on a railroad car. These steel bars were bound together and two men were carrying these steel bars - one in front and one in the rear - they carried them on their shoulders. They were pretty heavy and I wasn't used to this heavy work, so I could hardly hold it, then everybody start to swear at me. They used the most crazy and bazaar swearing words that you could think of and everytime I did something wrong, somebody would swear at me.

So the other fellow who was carrying the other end of the bars was swearing at me because I was shaking back and forth because it was too heavy for me, I couldn't really carry it. Anyhow, there were moments when we stopped and we had wait for more bars to come, so we had to stand there and I was real tired, so there was a board and I leaned against it to rest up a little bit and then the bars came and then the foremen are getting started to swear at me in a terrible way.
LHA - The Foreman?

OPA - Yes the Foreman, because that was the board *which* on which they had chalked down the number of bars that went into the railroad car and I had been leaning against it and rubbed it out, so they didn't know anymore how many bars were in the car, so he was swearing at me like the dickens. Everybody seemed to be swearing at me. So I worked there for three days and finally I had to unload pig iron - big pieces of pig iron out of a flat car and had to lift it over the side of the car and throw it out and these were very heavy I could hardly lift them, let alone put it over. At one time one slipped down and hurt *my* wrist. So they told me to go to the office and have it bandaged and I went to the office. It was November by that time and some snow flakes were flying it was cold and chilly and here I got into the office and it was nice and warm and comfortable - how wonderful to be working in an office - wouldn't that be marvelous if you could work in an office - but first I had to be bandaged and go back to my work unloading the car. While I thought that big piece of pig iron could have fallen on my foot and then I would have to go to the hospital and I would be out of work, I couldn't work anymore and would get involved in a big bill because there was no insurance or anything, so I thought I'd better quit this job because this is not going to get me anywhere. So I went to the
boss and said I want to quit, give me my money. He said well - you could get
your money if I had fired you - I would have to pay you right away - but now
that you quit, you'll have to wait till payday next Saturday to get your money.
So that was another disappointment, but I felt well if you have to be fired to
get paid, this is the wrong way I'm going at it. Anyhow, I quit and then I got
a third job at the paper mill

LHA - Excuse me, what did the second job pay you - do you remember?

OPA - That was the second job in the steel mill

LHA - Did that pay the same wage 15¢

OPA - Paid the same wage - they asked me how much did you get at your previous
job, I said 15¢, so you get 15¢ here too. I thought, well gee whiz, that's
going the wrong way by the time I get to be 80 years old I'll still have 15¢.

I don't make any progress -

END OF SIDE "A" TAPE #1
Tape #1 (Carel Sellenraad) Side "B" April 11, 1985

LHA - Then you mentioned that you went to work for a paper mill.

OPA - For a paper mill and I worked on the paper machine. There was a lot of pulp that went into the machine and then it was boiled and it went through the rollers and it came out the other end as newspaper paper - it rolled up automatically. So, they told me that it's wonderful if you work in one of these paper mills, because if you had the night shift, you can very often take a nap and the next day you had the day off. So I thought that's nice. The first week I worked during the day time.

LHA - Excuse me, Opa, do you remember the name of the steel company and the paper mill?

OPA - I don't know the name of the paper mill, but the steel company - I don't know if I have any record of it.

LHA - It's not important, I just wondered.

OPA - Anyhow, I don't know whether the steel mill is still there and whether the paper mill is still there or whether the D'arcy Spring Company is still there. These things change in the course of 70 years. So, I went to work in the paper mill. I worked there for about a week.
LHA - Same pay 15¢

OPA - 15¢ an hour and the work seemed to be rather dangerous, because some times the paper would tear and they would stop the machine and then somebody has to go over the great big vat with the pulp and then sometimes it was such a big thing that sometimes somebody might slip and fall into it and then he would be ground up or you might try to put paper into these rollers and if you aren't very careful your finger could get caught in the roller, well there you go. So I thought I have to be careful here and see that I don't get swallowed up by the paper. So then they told me on the night shift you can very often take your little nap and you sleep and the next day you're off. So I thought well that's wonderful. So the next week I had the night shift and lo and behold the paper tore and the machine stopped and I thought well nothing seemed to have happened nothing seems to be happening, I thought well I could take a little nap. There was a cart standing there with waste paper and I thought I would go over and sit in that car, of course, and take a little nap. In no time I was sound asleep and when I woke up everything was lit up again, the machines were working like the dickens, I thought, oh well it's working again, so I'll have to get up and get busy.
LHA - Excuse me, busy doing what - what were you doing?

OPA - What was I doing? I was - what was I doing - - I had to help getting the paper rolls off and doing odd jobs that had to be done. So when this machine first stopped there was more work to do which I didn't realize, so then at any rate, the next morning the Superintendent told me to come back at eight o'clock and I thought he's busy and he hasn't got enough people, so he probably wants me to take the day shift after the night shift and I would earn some extra money.

LHA - Was this eight o'clock in the morning he told you to come back?

OPA - He told me to come back at eight o'clock in the morning and I was off at about six or seven or something. So when he told me to come back I thought he wanted me to come back and work during the day time, so I came back at nine o'clock and there was another Superintendent for the day shift. He said what are you coming to do? I said well I came to work. He said what's the matter? Well, they told me to come back here. Oh well, you better go to the office; so I went to the office and they said here's your check - the Superintendent said you were of no use so you might as well leave - here's your check and that's the end of it. So - here I was without a job again.
LHA - You worked there two weeks was it?

OPA - I worked there two weeks. No, I worked there one week and one night.

LHA - One week in the daytime and one night.

OPA - One week in the daytime and one night and then the night Superintendent had no use for me because I was falling to sleep. I couldn't always make out what was the reason and what was the situation. They didn't always explain it to me, but I had to learn by experience that's all there is to it and so I was without a job again. Then I had written to an ad in the paper, applied for a job and I got a letter to come to that place. It was the Chamberlain Hardware Co.

LHA - What was the name?

OPA - Edwards & Chamberlain Hardware Company and they had a large hardware store and also had wholesale hardware business. They had travelers who traveled to the small places in Michigan to visit the hardware stores and do business. So I went to see him and I was interviewed by the Office Manager, Mr. Sylvester. He said that he needed an office worker and so I could come there and my wage would be $7 a week and I would have to start at eight o'clock in the morning till six o'clock at night and on Saturday would have to work all day and then work till ten o'clock at night and I was getting $7 a week. Well the first
week in an office was very attractive, but $7 a week, of course, didn't agree with my calculations. I had places in the bank for $10 a week and I hadn't earned $10 a week yet, but now with $7 a week I was out of luck, but still I would save $3, it cost me $4 for room and board and so I could do that. So I went to work - office work - I had to write statements to customers and I had to file a little and I made it a point to read all letters that I had to file before I filed them, because Mr. Edwards, who was the President, he wrote some very good sales letters selling stoves and things and they were quite interesting and they were good sales letters, so I read everyone of them before I filed them and I could do that because the files were pretty high, I was standing on a ladder and nobody could see that I was fussing around there in those drawers so I could read a letter before I filed it. I made the statements and I did general office work and worked 20f/ and then on Saturday they had a cash system that through the whole store was a system of wires with boxes on them. These boxes were used for the salesmen to put their money in them and their sales slip and it went to the office and I was standing there in the evening on Saturday evening - usually during the day time a girl was there - but the girls didn't work on Saturday night. So I had to on Saturday night empty the boxes
and take out the sales slips, put in the change and send it back again. So
I had some experience then they put me on the telephone -
LHA - Excuse me, this was a retail store and also wholesale
OPA - Also wholesale - retail and wholesale. It was quite a business and
at one time they put me on the telephone exchange, so people were calling and
wanted to talk to Mr. Ross, Sales Manager or Mr. ______________ or somebody
else. I couldn't always understand what they were saying, so sometimes I just
put in the plug to whatever I thought was right and rather it was right always
I don't know XXXXXXXXXX, I think sometimes it wasn't, because they
couldn't understand me very well and I couldn't understand them very well. So,
after I had been doing that for about a day, they took me off it - customers
were complaining they had a green Dutchman on the phone who can't understand
what they're saying, so they had trouble and they thought I had better not use
the telephone exchange, but I worked there and I got wiser and as a matter of
fact I got pictures of that office and how I worked the Burroughs machine they
had on trial, but they weren't going to buy it. They had one of the old
Burroughs machines with the handle with blind printing and the new machine was
going to be too expensive and we had to continue using the old machine.
LHA - What do you mean blind printing?

OPA - Because you had visible printing where you could see what you are printing and this old Burroughs machine had a carriage at the back of the machine and it was printing but you could see it - you had to lift the carriage to see what you were printing - the old machine - that's the way it was made, so you couldn't see it but that didn't matter so much because you could see the keys - you can hit your keys but if you had to go look at every item you're going to list you wouldn't make any headway. So I worked on it for a year and then I thought well I'm not making any progress here because I was getting only $7 a week.

LHA - You didn't get any raise during the year -

OPA - Didn't get any raise during the year and the following year I didn't get any raise either. I told ________ I'm not getting anywhere here, I got some experience, of course, and my English is improving, but I didn't realize at that time that it takes you two years to really become Americanized. Even if you know the language and the grammar, you have to get used to the sound, because the American sound is different from the English sound that I learned in school and you have to become acclimatized is what it amounts to. So I
thought I wasn't getting anywhere. Of course, I've had experience in Holland and I've had schooling in Holland but it doesn't amount to anything here, they don't know those schools, they don't know what they are worth and so you have nothing really - no education. So I had to get some schooling here in the business college too. So I ought to go to a business college. So I went to a business college, talked to the director of the college, but of course, he was right in favor of me joining the business college, of course, it was a private college. Of course, I had some money saved so I could pay for the tuition. So I came to the conclusion I'll go to the business college.

LHA - What college was it - do you remember the name?

OPA - I don't remember the name of the college, but it was in Kalamazoo and maybe the college isn't there anymore - I don't know. Anyhow, I decided to go to the college and so I told Mr. Sylvester I'm sorry I am going to quit. (There was a little trouble with the recording machine or the tape at this point.)

LHA - You were just saying you enrolled in the business college, and you said they were happy to have you because, of course, it was run for profit.

OPA - Sure they liked to have the tuition. So I told Mr. Sylvester that day I was going to quit, so well he was sorry. somebody else was going to quit - he was going to lose two men from his office and that was
very inconvenient, so he wanted me to stay. He asked me - wouldn't you want to stay? I said - no, I think I want to go to this college - oh he said I've been to that college and it's no use going there, you can learn anything you want to without that college - so on and so forth - he tried to convince me there's no use to go to college, but he didn't offer any increases and well it appeared that the other fellow wanted to quit too - he came around and said well, I'll give you a dollar raise and then I'll give you another raise in six months. So, if I was going to earn a few more dollars that would make a more favorable situation and I think I'd better cancel the college. So I didn't go to that college and kept on working. After six months I waited to see whether he will keep his word to give me more money.

LHA - You had patience.

OPA - I wanted to see how hospitable he was. So after the second week when I found no increase in pay I approached him and I said well you promised that you were going to give me more money and he gave me more money then and I thought that's all very nice but won't make that much profit this year
and the head bookkeeper still a man in his middle age, less than middle age
maybe, so I thought my chances for promotion here are slim and I could be working all the time for little money and I don't get anywhere.

The tape evidently went haywire at about 270 on the Dictaphone recorder.
LHA - This is Saturday, February 6, 1982 with Oma and Opa continuing the history of this illustrious couple. We left the other tape Opa, you were just threatening to quit at the hardware store for more money. I don't think we ever heard exactly what happened.

OPA - Is that as far as we got?

LHA - Yes, you were going to quit because you wanted more money.

OPA - Well, I was making $7 a week and he didn't talk - Mr. Sylvester was the office manager and he didn't come across with any increase, but then it happened that the other fellow in the same office was going to quit to get another job. So, he was a little bit hard up and so he offered me a dollar/ per week and then within six months I would get another dollar, so I considered the matter - I was thinking of quitting my job and going to a commercial school to learn - to study because my schooling in Holland didn't count for very much here. They didn't know where the schools were - they didn't know what the value was and so I thought if I have a diploma from an American school it would be a recommendation to get a better job in the United States and so I went to the school and talked to the manager and, of course, he was all in agreement that it would be an improvement if I followed some of the courses there. So I decided to do that.
But then when Mr. Sylvester came across with a better offer, I thought well, after all it would cost me some money to follow that school, I'd better stay where I am. Ao I accepted his offer. After six months I waited and saw what my pay envelope - I got a pay envelope every week with $7 in it - now $8 and when I got my envelope again I found he hadn't included the raise. So, I though I'll wait and see what he does and the following week, i still got $8 and the next week I still got $8 - I had patience - I thought I'll see what he does. So I went up to him finally and I said - well, didn't you promise you were going to give me a dollar more - Oh yes, he said that's true - I'll do that; so in the next envelope I got $8 for the weeks he had neglected to put it in.

LHA - So he paid you the back pay

OPA - That's right. So on that basis I could continue for a while. But as things went along I came to the conclusion, after all, I don't fit anywhere here and I was working and working now for two years and the two years, of course, were very beneficial experience in order to Americanize, because you have to get used to the language all right, but you have to get used to the customs - the way people look at things - to the way people consider things - to the way you have to deal with them and so on and of course, that takes time. One Saturday they put me on
the telephone exchange, because on Saturday the girl didn't work in the office and I couldn't quite understand what everybody was saying - I still had difficulty with the American language and so sometimes when I couldn't make out who they wanted to talk to and I just had to plug it in, so I'd just plug it into one of the holes thinking well this is who they want to talk to - then they soon found out from customers they were complaining that they couldn't get through and some of them said well you had a Dutchman on the phone. So they thought I better not operate the telephone exchange anymore. But after two years I got a little better oriented and my language was improved considerably and I though well, I'm not getting anywhere here. I have had some very useful experience. So, I made up my mind that during my vacation I wanted to go to Detroit, a bigger city. Of course, Kalamazoo is in between two big cities - Chicago and Detroit. I though Detroit might be a little closer, so Maybe Detroit would be the place to go to, because in a small town like Kalamazoo the opportunities are very limited and probably the opportunities in the big city are more plentiful. So, I went to Detroit on my vacation on the interurban car, it was cheaper than the train.

LHA - The what car, Opa?
OPA - The interurban car - it is the electric tram, really.

LHA - What year - and what time of the year would this be?

OPA - That was in the summer of 1913, I think. So I went to Detroit and went
to the YMCA and I talked to the secretary there and they had an employment bureau
at the YMCA and they had a job for a bookkeeper to take care of the administra-
tion of the experimental farm of the __________ company in Rochester,
Michigan. They were installing a new farm there and building buildings for the
produce and for the experimentation and a boarding house for the employees and
other things. They had their own concrete block plant and so they wanted a man
to take care of the administration there to keep the payroll and so on.

LHA - You got this job through the YMCA?

OPA - I got that job through the YMCA. And so they sent me to Rochester and they
were going to pay me I think it was $18 a week.

LHA - Oh, that was quite an advance.

OPA - Quite an advance - yes. Or less - I think it was a little bit less than
$18 a week. Anyhow, I went there and my office was a shack that was built tem-
porarily to take care of the supervisor that was supervising the building oper-
ations and the concrete block plant and there the foreman came of the carpenters
and the masons and the other workmen. There was an Italian, they had a lot of Italians working for them, they were doing the digging the soil with shovels and these Italians were making $2.50 a day; the carpenters were making $4 a day; the masons were making $5 a day for eight hour days. So the painters were getting $4 a day, too. So I kept the books there and I noticed that the previous man who was working there who was no good so he was fired got $75 a month, so they took advantage of me, so I told the superintendent, well, that's not fair he got $75 and was no good and I'm doing a good job and I'm getting less than that. So he thought it was true - the next time he was going to the head office in Detroit he would take it up and lo and behold I got $75 a month, too.

LHA - Excuse me Opa, you mentioned someplace on one job or maybe more they paid you in gold - not in dollars and coins.

OPA - That comes later - I'm not in the gold yet. So I got $75 a month and I knew stenography which I practiced in the meantime to practice it in English, my Dutch stenography, so I could take dictation from so the superintendent could dictate letters to me and I could keep the payroll and I could keep track of all the expenses and all the bills that came in and did general accounting work.

Then also, the superintendent arranged for a you call it a porch game that at
noon during the lunch hour we could play, so

LHA - __________ - horse shoes

OPA - Horse shoes on the peg - practiced on that a little bit - it was a nice pastime for the lunch time and we went back into the office and worked again.

It was quite a job.

LHA - What were your working hours?

OPA - My working hours I don't remember exactly what the working hours were, but I think they were probably from nine til twelve and then from one to six-eight hours a day. So I know that I worked eight hours a day - so it had to be timekeeping too.

LHA - Was it a five or a six day week?

OPA - It was a five day week, I think, but on Saturday was half a day, if I remember right.

LHA - Where did you live then?

OPA - I lived with a farmer. He was an Englishman who came to the United States finally bought a big dairy farm. He had quite a number of cows, he had some helpers that helped and his wife was an excellent cook and I, of course, couldn't get board and room there for $4, but they charged me $6 for a week and we had
fresh vegetables from the yard garden and it was excellent food that I was getting there. So it was quite congenial and I stayed on that farm - I went back first time to eat lunch and we were eating with all the help that they had and of course, they were milking the cows and doing a lot of work and they were hungry and were eating and so the tendency was that you would eat a little more than you really should. But at any rate, I had a good time there and when the melons were ripe they were only after the seed and we could eat just as melons as we wanted to, because they had a big shed that was built there and they cut these melons up to take the seeds out and then the melons themselves were given away. So we had quite an experience there. Well then the war came in 1914 and things were getting a little bit tough and the company decided they had enough buildings there now and they were going to liquidate that place and they were going to shut it down, at least they were going to continue on the experimental farm, but the building operation came to an end and so I would be out of a job. Well, I figured up what the buildings had cost and there was a discrepancy of several thousand dollars between my total and the total that the head office had. So they invited me to come to the head office and audit the books and compare it with my records and see what the situation was and then I found that there were
bills that were approved by the architect's office and the same bills also approved by the superintendent. So these suppliers had been paid twice and nobody ever said anything about it. So there may have been some collusion, I don't know about that, but at any rate, I found that and the company had to call up the suppliers and say we paid you twice for that bill and they would acknowledge it and pay it back. And so that saved them quite a few thousand dollars. So after the whole thing was shut down, they offered me a job in the head office in Detroit as assistant to the chief accountant. So I went to the office in Detroit.

LHA - Excuse me Opa, did you have any bookkeeping machines then or did you have to do all the accounting manually?

OPA - We did it all manually. They did have an efficiency engineer come over to see how the office was set up. They had men that were traveling in the summer selling seeds and staying in the office in the winter keeping the books. So I was taken on in Detroit as assistant to the bookkeeper, but the head bookkeeper really didn't need an assistant, so I didn't have too much to do, but he told me - he said, well, you'd better keep busy and so it looks as though you're very busy. So what I did is I had copies of letters in a copying book that they had in those days and they had to be indexed, so I had to index the copying
books to say a letter to Mr. Peterson was on that page and I had to take the
index to Mr. Peterson and put down the page on which the letter was, so he could
in the copying book find the page letters were for a particular firm. So while
I was doing that I preferred to put the copying book on the window sill where I
good light, but at the same time I could take \text{imiximeximxxmexxa} one of the
lectures I was studying accounting course - basic accounting courses at the
YMCA and I had subscribed to that in Rochester and took it by correspondence
and continued at the school of the YMCA in Detroit.

LHA - Were you living at the YMCA then - when you came back to Detroit?

OPA - I was living then at the YMCA in Detroit.

LHA - Where were the DM Ferry offices?

OPA - I don't know exactly anymore.

LHA - Was that YMCA the same place that the downtown YMCA is now.

OPA - The downtown YMCA

LHA - The same building?

OPA - Same building

LHA - Wasn't DM Ferry just a couple blocks from there?

OPA - I think so.
LHA - It seems to me that when I first came to Detroit Ferry was there

OPA - I think so - they were a couple blocks from - what street exactly they
were on, I don't know, but it was downtown.

MSA - You're talking about the YMCA -

LHA - No - down off Grand Circus Park

MSA - Witherell (?)

LHA - Witherell - by the way Marieke is with us as is Horace - I was just telling
the tape recorder that Marieke and Horace were sitting here too and that's
Oma giggling now.

OPA - I don't know if the giggling comes in on the tape -

LHA - Oma's been pretty giggly all evening -

OPA - And that's where we were paid in gold and silver. So I got my wages in
an envelope in gold pieces and in silver pieces.

MSA - Now what year was that?

OPA - That was 1914

MSA - When the war broke out

OPA - When the war broke out and the war was going on while I was in Detroit
and it was raining quite a bit that summer and they claimed it was due to all
the artillery that was shooting and booming up in Europe. (Could be you can't
tell.) At any rate, I studied very diligently in my course of study of ac-
counting and business administration and law and I finally finished it and got
my diploma; but I couldn't be a certified public accountant, I couldn't pass the
certified examination unless I had two years experience with a/public accounting firm.
So I thought I'd like to - this job was really not so important - the system
there was that in the summer the salesmen went out to sell the seeds and in the
fall they took the seeds back that were left over and then in the winter they
kept the books and ___________________. So there were plenty of
men to do the administration and so really they gave me the job as a reward for
my activities, but they were really were not very much in need of an assistant
to the head accountant. So I thought well, what I should do if I want to get
ahead, I should try to get a job in a certified public accounting firm; that was
not very easy in those days and so I wrote a letter to all accounting firms in
Detroit applying for a job and gave them a resume of what I could do and I got
replies from one-half of them and they all wrote me about the same, that they
had received my application and had put it on file and whenever there would be
an opening they would contact me. Well, of course, that was very nice, but it
didn't get me anywhere. Well, then I decided to visit - to write to the other half and - who hadn't answered and then from most of them, I got the same kind of an answer. So then I came to the conclusion there was only way to do and that is visit all these firms. So I went to visit them and I found that Hollis TiltonImport, a certified public accountant firm in the Penobscot Building in Detroit they might need - Mr. Tilton one of the members of the firm said maybe they may need somebody in the near future. So I kept right after them and when the opening actually came, well of course, I was right there and I was the man that was taken on as an assistant accountant.

LHA - What was the name of the firm?

OPA - Hollis Tilton Imports and they later sold out to Haskin &

LHA - That old Penobscot Building - is that where the present Penobscot Building is?

OPA - I think so - I think they remodeled it

LHA - Probably the old part of it, I suppose

OPA - Could be. The office had a view of the Dime Savings Bank - I don't know if the Dime Savings Bank is still there or if they changed the name -

LHA - It became the Commonwealth Bank
OPA - Could be - anyhow, the Dime Savings Bank was interesting because it was a tall building and when there was stiff wind a tremendous wind around the corner of the building and so all the ladies who passed by all their skirts would blow up. That was interesting.

MSA - I think that's why Lee's office was in the same area.

LHA - Was the Ponchartrain Hotel there then. - The old Ponchartrain

OPA - I think so. In the WMCA I joined the Jeffersonian Debating Club and

Mr. Philbo was the secretary who was in charge of the young men for certain such activities and that was very useful, because it taught me how to make a speech and how to express yourself in the proper manner and there were many members that came to the club and the first day they came they were scared stiff that they had to say something and gradually they would thaw and find it easier to get up and make a speech and that was a very useful experience. But I felt that I should get a job as an accountant, I succeeded in getting it and I went to Mr. - the director who had taken me on - Sheldon - no I'd have to look it up. But I asked him for a testimonial letter; I made it a job to find testimonial letters from the various firms that I worked for, it would be useful and he gave me a testimonial letter in which he certified that he thought that
Mr. Sellenraad would be a success in anything he would care to undertake - that was a very fine recommendation and so I started to work for Hollis Tilton Im-
porte -
LHA - Excuse me, Opa, who wrote that letter for you?
OPA - DM Ferry Company and I forgot what the name of the director was who gave it. Now, he was very experienced and he had a mansion on Woodward Avenue and that's been razed long ago, I guess. At any rate, I started to work for -
MSA - Hawkins Ferry who lives near Grosse Pointe, isn't he related to DM Ferry?
OPA - I think so - he was probably one of the partners. I -
MSA - In fact, the Ferry Company gave a lot of money for the library here in Grosse Pointe.
LHA - And there's Dexter Ferry
OPA - DM was probably Dexter - DM Ferry & Company was the name
LHA - Same family - Didn't Len Bolens father -
OPA - Bolen - Lester Bolen was the man who took me on. Bolen gave me the letter of recommendation and he had a mansion on Woodward Avenue, but I guess that's been razed long ago. Anyhow, they
LHA - Excuse me Opa, would that be the father or the grandfather of Len Bolen
who you know as a contemporary of mine?

OPA - It ought to be the grandfather, I guess, because Len Bolen was older than
I was. So if I am a great grandfather, he must be a great, great grandfather

MSA - So Len Bolen is now retired, he worked for Burroughs

OPA - He worked for Burroughs

MSA - Len (Lem?) Bolen

OPA - The funny part of it is that the experimental farm of DM Ferry & Company
was in the place where the Burroughs factory has been built. So they moved out
to Rochester and started a new experimental farm there and so DM Ferry and
Burroughs were more or less friendly to each other. They were doing business
with each other, but at any rate, I didn't know anything about Burroughs at that
time. At one time there was a Burroughs/machine on trial at the Chamberlain
hardware company in Kalamazoo where I worked and I thought it was a nice machine
but they weren't going to buy it because the old machine with the invisible
printing and the handle that you had to pull was sufficient that's all. So the
trial machine went back again.

LHA - There was no future in these new fangled accounting machines.

OPA - No. There's no future in them - they're all old fashioned and out of date.
Rough Draft  (Carel Sellenraad)  April 30, 1985
Continuing Tape #2, Side "A"

So nobody would buy them. As a matter of fact, it was funny to operate them.

So you could better do it with the more modern machines. Now, the accounting
firm I was sent to—the Dodge Motor Car Company they had to audit the Dodge
Motor Car Company and I had to check the additions in D. Ferry's books and I was
adding up the columns of figures, sometimes all day long, and Mr. Hollis—he was
in charge of accounts in England and Wales one of the partners, he was supposed
to use an adding machine, he thought it was the below the dignity of an account-
ant—they should be able to add up fast in their head and not use a machine.

Anyhow, I had to add them up in my head and I did it, but after lunch I started
to add and sometimes when I came down to the end of the column I was almost aslee
so I had to start all over again. But well, after all, I managed to do it and I
added up all the columns and I checked the things and I noticed that the ______
Company also had a _______ Hollerith machine. The _______ Hollerith machine
was a machine that would sort cards and add them up and they would have register
that would give the total that they would imprint. They didn't print, they
didn't invent it yet. But they could sort and they could add and that's as far
as they went.

LHA – It was a Hollister machine?
OPA - Hollerith - he was the inventor of it and later, of course, International Business Machine Corporation, but that's a different story.

LHA - Were there comptometers then?

OPA - There were comptometers - sure.

MSA - What's the difference between a comptometer and a Hollerith?

OPA - A comptometer is a calculating machine and a Hollerith is a card sorting and adding machine and cards with holes that had been punched into it and the holes would actuate the Hollerith machine and the Hollerith machine would add them up and they would add them up in a register and the register would show the total. So they had to copy the total.

H.A. - Sounds like the same system IBM used for their computers.

OPA - Like the beginning of the computer - that's right because the punch cards went pretty far before they became computers. But this was all more or less mechanical. So we checked the books and we had other jobs that I had to work - now one thing, for instance, there was also a client who was the and the all mixed up and they had to come to our firm to audit the books to see what the situation was because the whole thing was in a mess. So I went over there - I was assigned to go over there and help the accountant as a junior to check the books
and to check savings(?) and it was quite a mess and after a couple of weeks I
was glad they took me off and put me on another job. But a couple weeks later
Mr. Tilton called me in the office and he said well, his accountant has nervous
prostration, he disappeared - we don't know where he is and we are very busy -
we haven't got time, really, do you see a chance that probably with some help
finish that audit? I said yes, I think I could and I had the good fortune that
courses also issued a magazine and they gave interesting articles about restaurant administration, what the relation was between the cost
of food - the price they charged, and so on and so forth. So that came in very
handy, because also had a restaurant and also had a floor
where they could dance and so on. So I said I could do that - sure. So Mr.
Tilton went with me to the club and he surveyed what had been done by the
accountant and what still had to be done and he gave some instructions and then
he left, because the firm was very busy. Mr. Tilton also had a gold company in
the Klondike in Alaska, where had to go to audit the books once a year. So he
had plenty of other jobs to do, so he wasn't anxious to and himself so
he left it to me and then I remember sitting there till late at night - eleven
o'clock and hear the dance music and people dancing and I was just plugging at
all the figures and I thought - gee, what kind of a job is this - to work all
day adding up figures, checking them and so on and so forth - isn't that someth-
ing that is a nuisance? And then Mr. Philbo (?) thought I would make a good
salesman and there were other people that thought I would make a good salesman.
I thought - well, yes, that's awfully nice, but you'll finish this - so I
finished it - I investigated everything I could investigate - I checked all the
statements with the members of the club to see what was right and what was wrong
and some members of course, ordained that the club is always a mess - it's never
been right yet and now it's statement is no good because this is no good and
that is no good. Well, I had to investigate and determine what the actual check
was that the customer elected to pay and so we finished the audit and made the
report on it and the report - I usually was called in the office to realign all
the parts and put lines in it so the balance sheet and the profit and loss
account would be more clear to laymen who would read it - so I put beautiful red
lines with a drawing pen on all the balance sheets and profit and loss accounts
and so on. So it was put in *them*/*beautiful binder with a nice ribbon on it and
Mr. Tilton went to the management - Board of Directors of the club to present
them the report and first, of course, I submitted my report to Mr. Tilton and
Mr. Tilton looked through it and he seemed to be well pleased with it - he changed a word here and there, otherwise he left it the way I made it and it was beautifully executed and Mr. Tilton brought it to the Board of Directors and he told me later the Board of Directors was very much pleased with the report and they could see now just what the situation was - how it got as far it was and what should be done to put things back in solid financial condition. So I had done good work and then after that I got more important things to do. They found that I could do things all by myself, so I remember being sent out to a contractor and there was a dispute as to how much the building would have cost - I had to add up all the bills that I got on the adding machine to determine the total amount and I made a report on that and it all went very nicely. But I thought, well, after all would it be better to go and become a salesman, rather than an accountant and so I thought well, what should I sell? I thought well, the thing to sell, of course, is accounting machines and adding machines because that's the study I followed.

LHA - Excuse me Opa, about how much money were you making with the accounting firm then?

OPA - I was making $75 a month with the accounting firm as a junior and they charged I think $15 a day for my services. So - wait a minute -
MSA - That's a far cry from what they charge today, isn't it?

OPA - Yes - they charged $15 a day

LHA - $15 a day to the client

OPA - Right and I got $75 a month, so the firm spent some money on me.

LHA - Of course, at that time you - there was no withholding, social security, no pension - nothing - just a straight pay check for what you contracted for.

OPA - In those days you didn't pay any income tax below $5,000 and at $5,000 you started at 1½ per cent or something. So the taxes were very moderate and they didn't have, of course, any social measures - any social security they didn't exist, or things of that sort - nobody thought about.

LHA - So, if you were earning $75 a month, you got paychecks that were $75 then.

OPA - That was worth $75

LHA - That would be nice

OPA - But that ***XX did include a pension, of course. So, I got $75.

MSA - What has happened to that pension?

OPA - There's no pension - I got $75. So I thought well the thing to do is to start with an accounting firm - with a firm that makes adding machines, accounting machings and of course, accounting machines were not made - it was just adding
machines, but they could be used in an accounting operation and so I thought the thing to do is apply for a job at Burroughs. So called up Burroughs and made an appointment with Mr. Shaw - Mr. Shaw was in the head office and I thought he might be the man that I can talk to. So I had an interview with M. Shaw - before that I should say this that there happened to be a salesmanship congress in Detroit and I thought in connection with my thoughts of becoming a salesman it would be a good thing to go to the salesmanship congress. So I asked for permission to do that and have a couple of days off. So they gave me a couple of days off and I attended the salesmanship congress and there were all the big shots of all the big companies; United States Steel, Ford Motor Company, and so and so forth. So they had all kinds of lectures - but the lectures all concentrated on this one point - and the one point was that - he who serves best earns best. That means a company has to not be asked for the money - the salesman should be asked for the money. The salesman's primary purpose - to serve his customers and give them the very best service he can give them and then the money will take care of itself. And being an idealistic man, I thought that would be a very ideal purpose to devote your life to - to serve your customers. So, I went to Burroughs and Mr. Shaw decided to take me or
and I went to Mr. Tilton and told him that I was very sorry but I was going to be a salesman and he felt - well, maybe I would be a success at it and he wished me the best. He gave me a beautiful testimonial letter, what I'd been doing there and what I could do and so I left and I went to Detroit office of Burroughs and there they sent me out with a couple men to see how they were operating and what they were doing and I worked on some places - in those days there were still bookkeepers that were convinced that they could than a machine could and they were offended to think that a machine could do it better than they could. So, in many cases you had to do quite a job to convince them that the machine would be of some value.

LHA - Excuse me, Opa when was this you went with Burroughs - do you remember?

OPA - I went with Burroughs - that was in 1919, I guess - now let me see -

LHA - Well, no, it was still before United States was in the war

OPA - Let's see - I retired - wait a minute - that was before the United States got into the war. So it must have been 1916 or so - I would have to figure it out. - See - I retired in 1957 and I was with Burroughs 40 years - so it was 1917 that I joined them.

LHA - Do you remember what they paid you - what your wages were - were you on a
straight salary or on a commission?

OPA - I was on a starting salary of $60 a month - I went down in earnings, but I was a junior salesman, so I got only a salary and no commission to learn the business.

END OF SIDE "A", TAPE #2
LHA - It's a beautiful late Sunday afternoon September 11, 1983 and Oma and Opa are sitting with Marieke and me and Eleanor in the back room of our house on 71 Moross, having just enjoyed a delightful lunch by Marieke, ended with a delicious spice cake made by Eleanor. Now, Opa on the last tape we were just recounting how you had joined Burroughs in 1917 as a junior salesperson. Where actually were you calling and what type of people were you calling on for your sales; what equipment were you selling?

OPA - The first three months I really didn't have a district, wasn't assigned to a district, I just went out with different salesmen to see how they were doing and get the hang of the operation. Then I got word that a brother of mine who was an engineer on a ship that came from Holland and went to the Dutch East Indies to load rice for Holland, because the war had made it impossible for regular transportation to take place and they were ordered by the American government to go to the Bay Newport News and there anchor and I got word that my brother on his ship The Sumoranda (?) had arrived at Newport News.

LHA - That was your brother Hendrick?

OPA - My brother Hendrick. And so I would like to see him because I had been away for so long and for so many years, so I hadn't seen any relative for six-
seven years, so I asked permission to take some time off and go to Newport News and the management declared that it was very well and very nice and then maybe from Newport News I could go to New York, because in New York they had an excellent organization and I could probably learn more in New York than anywhere else. So, I did go to travel to Newport News and arrived at Newport News - I got to the harbor and there was a motor boat there that was ready to leave for different ships and so they were ready to take me along for a dollar and set me off on the Summit (?). So I got off at the Summit, climbed aboard went to the cabin of the chief engineer and there by golly was a real brother of mine who I hadn't seen for seven years. What a sensation.

LHA - How much older was Hendrick than you?

OPA - Hendrick was two - three years older than I was.

LHA - Were you quite close friends when you were young? Or not?

OPA - Well - close friends - we were brothers together in the same family so we got along all right with no conflict or anything and of course, we both in different directions, so in itself it was a sensation to meet a brother again. So we had a lot of conversations - a lot of things to catch up on and see what the situation was. So I spent two weeks aboard that ship and had a great time.
They at one time had a dinner for all the other ships as well, because gradually a whole fleet of Dutch ships had anchored in the Bay and all were detained by the American government and not allowed to proceed to Holland, because the American government wanted to take over these ships because in the war they had to transport troops to Europe and the Merchant Marines of America was not sufficient to take care of it. They had to get ships from somewhere no matter from where.

LHA - These ships were just commandeered by our government because in this case because Holland was a neutral nation was it not?

OPA - Holland was a neutral nation, but they were commandeered and the shipping companies got compensation for the ships that were taken over. So - I guess in general the compensation wasn't too bad, so that the/shipping companies didn't object really. But for the crew, it was a sad sensation to see the Dutch flag was hoisted down before they left the ship and then they were all ordered to New York and were put up in hotels waiting for a Dutch ship to take them back home. So, after my visit to the Sumoranda I traveled to New York and reported to the manager there at Burroughs, but the manager had never heard of me and evidently Detroit hadn't written them as they promised to do. So they had to find out from Detroit what the situation was and then they decided to take me or
in New York. In New York I was assigned to a senior salesman by the name of Harrihan and I was assigned then to a district on Canal Street. Canal Street being a center of Jewish ships making sweaters and all kinds of things and so I canvassed there very carefully and put machines on trial, which was a contest who was going to put the most machines on trial.

LHA - That's interesting - that's the same area where your son Johan ended up many years later.

OPA - That's correct - that's correct. So I worked on Canal Street and Broadway and the surrounding territory and found that all these merchants they were of course, doing business and they could probably use an adding machine. I remembe one case where some of these buildings you had to climb stairs for two or three stories and I had climbed two stairs and I was going to climb the third one too and I asked a fellow who came down the stairs - is there anything there upstairs of any kind and he gave me the advice - go up and look - and he was right I went up and looked and succeeded in getting a machine on trial and also to sell it later. So I did have a record of the most machines on trial of all the salesmen in New York and I occasionally sold a machine and when there was a bookkeeping machine in question, we had a specialty man who handled the bookkeeping machines
and then we could engage his services and he would demonstrate and sell the machine.

LHA - Opa, these machines were all hand operated - no electric machines

OPA - They were electric - the adding machines were hand as a rule, but the bookkeeping machines were electric.

LHA - What would a hand operated adding machine cost about then?

OPA - That would depend on the number of columns, but a regular adding machine adding up to 9-million might cost, if I remember well, $300 that's about what it is, of course today you can buy an electronic adding machine - a listing adding machine that will also calculate for less than $10.

LHA - I know it.

OPA - So that's quite a difference. It goes to show that all products are made for a certain time and at some other time they are not worth anything. So all the machines I sold are too expensive to use, nobody uses them anymore, because the new machines do a lot better job.

LHA - Were you being paid a commission or just a salary then?

OPA - I was just getting a salary - no commission. The senior salesmen got the commission.
LHA - Oh, so all the machines you sold made a commission for the senior salesmen

OPA - A commission for the senior salesmen and I got my salary.

LHA - Were you making the same salary you got in Detroit?

OPA - If I remember well - I got about $75 a month in New York.

LHA - That was good pay for those days.

OPA - Well, not too good, but it was reasonable - whether I sold enough to earn that much money - I don't remember.

LHA - Where were your offices?

OPA - Offices were on Broadway, I think - if I'm not mistaken, but I don't remember exactly where they were. But at any rate, I, of course, had no car - I didn't use a car - couldn't use a car in that neighborhood, so I just traveled and went ahead to order a machine on trial. I had to order it and then/expedi-
tion department of the branch would deliver the machine and I would go over and demonstrate it and see if I could sell it.

LHA - Where did you live/in New York?

OPA - When I arrived in New York, I first went to the YMCA on 23rd Street, if I remember right and 23rd Street was all filled up. So they referred me to the Bowery YMCA. I had XXX never heard of the Bowery, I didn't know what it was,
so I went to the Bowery YMCA and when I entered the hall, I found a lot of fellows in there vagabonds, you might say, bums, with torn clothes and half drunk, some of them. They were just sitting there and waiting and I went up to the desk and I told them I wanted a room. The bed in the room had a mattress that was made out of leather all closed up so no bugs could crawl into it.

LHA - The mattress was leather - for heavens sake.

OPA - Or plastic - I don't know what it was. At any rate it was a mattress that couldn't - - - and the room, of course, was pretty bare so that it could be kept clean very easily, because evidently they expected many guests that would stay there and that wouldn't be entirely clean.

LHA - Were they single rooms or dormitories?

OPA - Single rooms. So I stayed in the YMCA for some time and then I transferred to the 23rd Street YMCA when I was able to get a room there and if I remember well, on the roof there was a tennis court and I played tennis sometimes before going to the office. At the 23rd Street YMCA I had quite a congenial stay.

LHA - Excuse me, the Bowery - that's a Dutch name isn't it?

OPA - That's a Dutch name

LHA - What's it named after?
OPA - I don't remember. It comes from the Dutch but what kind of a word it is I don't know. De bouwery (the building taking place) like the building of buildings

LHA - It's not important. Well, you mentioned you played tennis before going to work on the roof of the 23rd Street YMCA

OPA - Yes - and there battle (?) forces and then I joined the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, where the Rockerfellows (?) were also members and I knew a lot of people there - a lot of nice people there and a lot of young people there that I had a good time in New York. I enjoyed myself very well - got acquainted with a lot of people there and then of course, the war progressed and it became more urgent and all the young fellows that I knew gradually were disappearing because they were joining the armed forces that were going to Europe to greet the Kaiser.

LHA - How did you feel about Holland being a neutral nation then?

OPA - I didn't feel about it in any way or other - after all, it was up to Holland if they could stay neutral, you couldn't blame them. For a small country as long as they were not being attacked, they were wise to stay neutral - there' no way of getting out of it.

LHA - Were your friends in New York mostly American born or did you find other
Dutch nationals?

OPA - They were mostly American born. As I say, in the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, as well as in the YMCA were mostly American boys. Then finally, I saw an ad asking for French stenographers - stenographers who know French for France.

So, I thought it may be a good opportunity, because after all, so many young people were going to join the army that you felt a little bit out of place if you were still walking around as a civilian. So I subscribed to it and then I went to Detroit to say good-bye to everybody there, to Kalamazoo, I mean, where I had lived and then I joined the - went back to New York and took a train to Florida.

LHA - You said - I'm not sure I understand - this was a French organization?

OPA - No - it was the American army - they wanted stenographers who talk French.

LHA - Oh, in our army expedition force

OPA - Army - expedition force. So they had asked for different kinds of professions that were needed in the army that's what it amounts to. So I joined the army at that time and went to Florida. Then in Florida I got off at Jacksonville from the train and then walked to Camp Johnson.

LHA - You didn't have to join the army - you weren't required to
OPA - I was free to join it or not; as a Dutch citizen they wouldn't be able to induct me either - I was free to join or not to join. But having been in America so long and feeling quite American about the whole situation, I felt I should also do my duty and join.

LHA - Was United States in the war by then?

OPA - United States was in the war by then. That's why they were mobilizing and creating an army.

LHA - But you enlisted in New York, but was sent to Florida

OPA - I was in New York when I enlisted but New York I was sent to Florida. So they gave me a ticket on the train and I found that as I came further South in Cincinnati already the railroad had two entrances - one for whites and one for blacks.

LHA - Excuse me, you must have taken the train from Kalamazoo or Detroit to Florida - not from New York - if you went through Cincinnati.

OPA - From New York

LHA - Well, okay - that's surprising the train would come all --

OPA - Now, wait a minute - wait a minute - I may have taken the train from Detroit.
LHA - You came back to say goodbye to your family in Kalamazoo.

OPA - Yes, and then probably I went back to Detroit with the inter-urban car because the inter-urban car was cheaper than the train. So, from Detroit I went South and when I came to Cincinnati, as I say, there were two entrances of the railroad station - one for blacks and one for whites and then as I came further South the entrances of the blacks became larger and the entrance for whites became smaller. Then I arrived in Jacksonville and I talked to a soldier asking where the camp was - Camp Johnson - he said well, you better wait before you go in there, because once you get in there you don't get out. Well, it was good advice, but I had to go in there anyway, so the time was there to go.

LHA - The army had given you the train ticket to go down.

OPA - Gave me the train ticket to go down.

LHA - Was it coach seat or did you have a sleeper?

OPA - I had a coach seat, I think. I think I had a sleeper - they gave me good accommodations.

LHA - You don't remember how long it took for the train ride -

OPA - A couple days; didn't take more than a couple days. The train went pretty
fast. So then I entered the camp and the first thing that happened was that I was inoculated against all kinds of diseases that you may get and one after the other. I was in a tent with a couple fellows and one of the other fellows he got really sick from all these inoculations, but it didn't bother me, really. It didn't affect me at all - maybe it made me insensitive to germs of that kind, but at any rate, it didn't bother me, I could start to work. So every morning we had to line up and then the jobs would be distributed and the fellows would consider as to whether each a job was hard work or not hard work and they were none of them anxious to do hard work, so they selected what what they had. Some-time they asked for carpenters and when nobody offered themselves, they just counted the fellows off - one, two, three, four, five, six carpenters whether they had done any carpenter work or not, because usually it was pretty rough carpenter work. Like nailing rustic branches to a framework for a music dance (?) So I went through all these manipulations of inoculations and then the fellows were assigned to different things.

LHA - Well, you went there for your skill in speaking French.

OPA - By the time I got there they had no record of it or they didn't know it, I was just a man who joined the army - that's it. So I joined the army and they
forgot about the French. So I was in the army and now I had to be assigned to something.

LHA - What time of year was this Opa, when you went to the camp in Jacksonville? Was it hot - cold?

OPA - It was in the summer, I think. Because I remember I had one job one time nailing branches to the roof of a music tent and the sun was shining and it was very hot and it didn't bother me, I was sweating, but it didn't bother me really. I just hammered away at these branches as though there were great big nails, as though there was no heat or sunshine at all. So, I went through that and then the question was I had to have an assignment and they considered - they told me one time they had an assignment for a quartermaster ——–

and the quartermaster ———— ————. The YMCA was taking care of the troops at the front for all kinds of things like cigarettes, cigars, chocolates, and all kinds of goodies that were not being distributed by the quartermaster ———— and tooth brushes and all things that the men may need.

But the YMCA had no authority - the YMCA secretary couldn't tell an officer what to do. He had to wait as to whether the officer would assign him to do do certain things or not. The result was that things didn't come to the front and
so they decided to organize a - thirteen sales commissary units that would take
over the job and be sure that the fellows on the front line would get what they
need. So I was assigned to study army records and everything that goes with it,
what you have to do is - your stock is bombed out and things of that sort - so
the administration of the army was thoroughly reversed so I would know how to
handle it and while I was studying - while I was attending courses, I was called
very often and they had a job available for this and they had a job available
for that and I refused them all, because I said I'm following this course now
let me finish it first and I'll know something. If I stop half way, I'll know very little, so I'll have to complete it. Finally, I was about the
only man in the course left over. All the others had accepted different posi-
tions, and I was interviewed - they asked me what I would do - I was an account-
ant, I was assistant accountant - so I knew about accounting and everything else
So, that's why they thought that job would be a good thing in the commissary
units. So at the end I accepted the position in the sales commissary unit and
the commissary unit consisted of a lieutenant, a second lieutenant and a ser-
geant first class. Amd a sergeant amd a corporal and I think twelve or so
privates. So, I accepted that and then joined my unit.
LHA - Do you remember your unit number, Opa?

OPA - I thought it was 313, but I would have to look it up. Then we went on the train and at the various stations we were all nicely received by young ladies that were helping the troops and serving them coffee or what have you to make it a little more comfortable.

LHA - The train to where?

OPA - The train to Newport News. So the train to Newport News was really a joy ride more or less. It was, of course, a train filled with troops, special troop train and everywhere at every station we were received with all kinds of encouragement, but they knew we were going to the front and nobody knew if we would ever come back.

LHA - Just to digress a bit - when you joined the army you automatically got citizenship, didn't you?

OPA - No, I didn't get my citizenship.

LHA - Oh, you didn't? You were in the American army, but you weren't a citizen?

OPA - I was in the American army as a Dutch citizen.

LHA - As a Dutch citizen?

OPA - As a Dutch citizen. And so I - that's why I couldn't become a
lieutenant - I couldn't become a commissioned officer, because otherwise I probably would have had the assignment, but I couldn't become a commissioned officer because I wasn't an American citizen.

LHA - I'm surprised you could even/in the American army at all without being an American citizen.

OPA - Well they didn't make too much distinction in those days, you were a young man, you were working in America so, you might as well join the army. And I know that in the camp where we arrived in Camp Johnson, there was a boy that - he was an Italian and he was also drafted - it was a partial draft.

LHA - You say - also drafted - you weren't drafted.

OPA - I wasn't drafted, I was a volunteer. I joined the army and they couldn't draft me officially, but this Italian was drafted and so he protested that he shouldn't be drafted, he should be released. So there was quite a commotion about it. But they felt that everybody really, whether you were Italian or Dutch - it didn't make any difference - you were living in America - so you should join the army.

LHA - Well, we were at war with Italy weren't we?

OPA - We were at war with Italy - we were at war with Germany - and I had a German who was a sergeant.
LHA - But he was American born - he was an American citizen

OPA - No, he was German born and he was a naturalized American

LHA - But he was a citizen then

OPA - He was a citizen

LHA - Right - naturalized citizen

OPA - Yes. All the others were American, of course, the lieutenant was an American, but I couldn't become a lieutenant because I was not an American citizen and at that time at least they felt that everybody should join the army and didn't pay too much attention to your nationality. But when it came to becoming an officer, they did pay attention to your nationality, as to whether you were an American or not. So we were organized - there were 13 units and each... - they had 13 men in each group plus the officers, non-com, left missioned officers and so we/one day by train for Newport News and at Newport News we were lugging all our belongs on ur back, quite a load, I still have pictures of it and then we boarded the ship.

LHA - Do you remember the ship?

OPA - Don't remember the ship - a special troop ship

LHA - Was it an American ship or one that that had been commandeered?

OPA - An American ship. An American troop ship of the army. When they
commandeered a commercial ship it was a special troop far to belong to the Navy.

LHA - Undoubtedly your brother wasn't still there. Where had he gone - did you know?

OPA - Gone to Holland. He had gone to New York and in New York I visited him in the hotel where all these crew members were lodged and you see, the real strategy of the American government was that all these crew members could just order whatever they liked and there were fellows drinking champagne every day.

So, of course, there are always fellows that misuse the privileges they get and they go too far and they have to put a stop to it. But I had an enjoyable visit with my brother and then he left on the New Amsterdam with all the other crews of all the other ships for Holland.

LHA - That was probably in the spring or very early summer

OPA - That could be.

LHA - That's when you were in New York

OPA - That was probably in August 1917

LHA - You were still in New York -then

OPA - I had been working in New York

LHA - You were in New York when your brother left
OPA - I was working in New York when my brother left.

LHA - Then after that you went to Florida

OPA - After that I went to Florida and now I came back after my training and assignment and boarded a ship - I didn't go back to New York - I went to Newport News and in Newport News we boarded a ship.

LHA - By the way Opa, what was your army pay then - do you remember?

OPA - My army pay as a sergeant first class , if I remember well was $60 a month.

LHA - I'm quite impressed, you enlisted and were almost immediately a sergeant.

OPA - That was on the basis of my education.

LHA - That's remarkable.

OPA - On the basis of my experience as an accountant and that's why I was assigned to an administrative job, because of my accountancy experience - they investigated all the men - what they were capable of doing and so they assigned them to whatever job seemed to be most suitable. So, I got the highest rank - non-commissioned rank - that you could get before you got into a commission. So since I wasn't an American citizen, I couldn't get a commission. Well, the ship went in convoy and we were accompanied by
baloons that would spot the submarines that might sink us; then in the evening of course, nobody was allowed to smoke and because even a cigar light might be seen from a distance in the pitch dark night.

LHA - You say balloons - they were balloons that held people aloft, but they weren't blimps or dirigibles with motors on them

OPA - No - they were balloons with cables and they accompanied the fleet that was well way out to sea.

LHA - But you had - you didn't have any blimps then - did you? No balloons with motors on them at all

OPA - No balloons with motors on them

LHA - No airplanes for your cover?

OPA - No - just the balloons with the cable - that's all there was and so that they could see from aloft whether there were any submarines in the neighborhood so they could chase after them. Because we had a convoy - the convoy was accompanied by a torpedo boat to circle around the convoy as fast as it could go to protect us. So we progressed - of course, we got our meals now, the accommodation was of course, more or less primitive - there were five bunks on top of each - you couldn't really sit up in your bunk - just lie down - that's
all there was to it. Then eventually you could sleep, then you could move about
so you could be comfortable. By the time we arrived in _____ France they
were again met quite a ways from the coast by tug boats or whatever it was with
a cable to a balloon that would guard us against submarines.

LHA - Did you have any incidence of submarines crossing over?

OPA - We had no incidence of submarines - no submarine was seen in the neighbor-
hood, evidently they could keep them away and gradually, of course, don't forget
it was 1917 - 1918 at that time

LHA - Okay - when did you leave Newport News or Norfolk to sail to Europe? When
did you arrive, do you remember?

OPA - Well I think it took a couple weeks - the date exactly when we left or
arrived, I don't know. We arrived about August, I think when we made the trip

LHA - August, 1918?

OPA - Yes - August, 1918 - yes.

LHA - Oh, you were almost a year in the army then before you went over to Europe

OPA - I was not a year, I don't think - but I was quite a while in the army
following a course of study and so on. But you could see they were short of men
for all kinds of jobs that they had to hurry up and get everybody ready. The
fact is that I had to have a revolver in my holster, but they were short of revolvers and so they didn't issue me one and then I went all through the war without a revolver. Happily I didn't have to shoot and I wasn't attacked by any enemy, so I didn't miss it very much, but when we were about ready to go back to the United States, they felt that everybody should be properly equipped and I got a heavy revolver that I could put in my holster. Well, I never tried it - I never shot with the damned thing and everything was done in such a tremendous hurry that we wanted to have an army in France and we were not really prepared to have one.

LHA - After you got to Brest - what did they do with you?

OPA - In Brest we were lodged in a series of buildings that dated back to Napoleon - troop barracks. There were some rats running around there but they didn't bite us - at least not me. So we were there for a couple days until we boarded a train for the front.

LHA - Was this an artillery unit - what type of

OPA - Our unit was a sales commissary unit

LHA - I mean - you were attached to whom -

OPA - I wasn't attached yet. We were traveling as a sales commissary unit with
other troops who were all going to the front. So we went to a box car and the box car had a sign on it - so many horses or so many men - and that was the limit that they could load in one of these cars - these French cars. So we got in the train - special troop train, of course - box cars with troops in them and the train moved and and we got finally got to a point where we had to get out and got into a truck and the truck moved us to the front till it couldn't go any further.

Q: Where was the front then?

A: That was in the neighborhood of Verdun. And the truck couldn't go any further and so it stopped and an officer came along and he said - wear your gas mask - we didn't have a gas mask - so he started bawling us out because we had no gas masks and he said you're close to the front - if you could have a gas mask any moment and then you have no gas masks. Well, that was sad to hear, it wasn't our fault - we simply hadn't been issued any gas masks - I'd never had a gas mask. So we were ordered to go to another place and there they had necessary gas masks deposited so we each could take one.

Q: This time - were you living in tents or barracks - or where?

A: We were living in transportation - the trucks
finally we were let out of the truck and then we were in a - now we were close to the front, but were in the villages - I think they were evacuated by the civilian population and there was in each building a French non-commissioned officer whose task it was to make the building habitable - usually all the windows were blown out; he had to put glass paper into the windows so they would be closed and you could stay in there with a certain amount of comfort.

LHA - This was near Verdun you say

OPA - Near Verdun - yes. And we stayed in these buildings for some time and didn't get very much to sell to the soldiers for quite a while and at one time we received a shipment of cigars and everything and some of our men went into a truck - they went to as close to the front as they could get and then in some kind of a shell hole, they organized a sales commissary where the fellows who were free and could come buy whatever we had and whether the cigars were costing a dollar apiece or not, that didn't make any difference, because the boys had no opportunity to spend their money - they got paid, but they couldn't buy anything - they had to depend on what the quartermaster would give them.

LHA - Are you saying somebody - was this organized by your group - or did some-
somebody swipe the materials - I'm not sure I understand - were the cigars set up legally to be sold, or did somebody

OPA - No - we got cigars in our commissary for the purpose of selling them to the soldiers. We got all supplies that we needed from the shipments received and then we would sell them to the soldiers. But we got very little, evidently all the shipments came through the various units in France were taking their share of it - by the time the shipment arrived at the front - there was hardly anything left, so we got very little to sell. Well, then we managed to stay there mostly in dilapidated housing in the small villages that were all shot to pieces during four years of war and could make ourselves as comfortable as we possibly could. I think I still had my pajamas with me, which nobody else had, so I could at least change clothes at night, but otherwise we were then in positions where we might be shelled occasionally. I remember one time there was a big shell 40mm shell exploded right in front of where the quartermaster was established and the sergeant to the quartermaster when I saw him later in the day I saw a strange glow in his eyes - I thought gee, what's the matter with this fellow - he evidently got a shock - because there was a shell exploded right in front of his office - cut down the facade of the building, but nobody was hur
ROUGH DRAFT

Tape #3  (Carel Sellenraad)  April 22, 1985
Side "A"

LHA - Good evening dear listener we are now continuing the Oma and Opa tapes.

It is Wednesday, October 26, 1983 and I'm sitting in Oma and Opa's charming living room. Oma has been ill lately, but looking fine again. We last left you with Opa in the army outside Verdun. You want to pick up the thread Opa?

OPA - I will. I just related how a bomb exploded in front of the Quartermaster's quarters and the Quartermaster's Sergeant was affected by it, not that he was wounded, but evidently his nerves were shot and during the night he took his revolver, he couldn't stand the strain, and he took his revolver and shot himself. The following day the truck came by bearing a coffin draped with the American flag - another victim of the war. Now, we were, of course, in the neighborhood of Verdun on the _______________ front and we were shifted around quite a bit. All the villages in that neighborhood were evacuated where no more civilians around, of course, there were no stores or anything and the ruins of the various houses were made livable again, insofar as it was possible by a French sergeant who put in glass paper into the windows and closed them up, so it would be possible to live in one of these rooms, although the rest of the house might be entirely demolished. In one case there was a fireplace and I remember we took some of the old furniture setting there to build a fire to have
a little warmth, but then we discovered that one of the beams caught fire, so we extinguished it and couldn't have a fire anymore. We were, as I said, shifted around quite a bit and we didn't get too many shipments from the United States or from the rear of the front -

LHA - Opa, how close were you to where the fighting was actually going on?

OPA - I don't know. Sometimes we were very close evidently, sometimes we were further away - it all depends. If I remember, I saw one time prisoners of war being brought in coming from the front and they were officers but mostly boys of not more than sixteen years old. Of course, the German empire was crumbling so they had no more soldiers and had to take sixteen year old boys to make them soldiers. So these boys were really frightened and they came through they came directly from the front and I noticed that one of the American soldiers was anxious to get a souvenir and he tried to get a belt from one of these men; of course that was against the rules, he shouldn't have done that. At any rate, this great bully of an American soldier scared the tiny boy with tears on his face, but nothing happened to him. On another walk we had we passed by the a artillery position - it was a great big Naval gun - 16 inch Naval gun and it was quite a bit of organization that was all around it. Behind the gun
was a Dutch box car with ammunition and the big shells were rolled to the gun
and put in the combustion chamber and behind that were four bags of gun powder
and then they waited until the man in the telephone booth, who was in contact
with the captain _______ where an observer was looking at what happened
lines and what the Germans were doing and when he gave the signal that the gun
should be fired, then attendant pulled the string and the explosion occurred
and the shell was hurled out of the nozzle of the gun and traveled - you could
hear it travel through the air until it hit the enemy and exploded.
LHA - Opa, what was your morale and the morale of your troops you were with -
what did they think of the Germans at this point?
OPA - The morale was very high in general. They realized they were there for a
purpose and they had to finish that war in a hurry and so it went too slow. To
illustrate the morale at one time, we got visitors from behind the lines, they
were anxious to get to the front and they were anxious to see what was going on
because they said they had to hurry up and defeat these Germans. So, if
soldiers from behind the lines as a furlough went to the front, it shows that
they had a high morale, because normally you would say they were crazy and they
wouldn't do that. So we were there and of course, when I was _______ at
that gun placement I didn't realize that maybe the enemy might elect us as a
target and that we might be shelled as well. I just was standing there and
watching the operation as though it were a factory - a factory of death, you
evidently might say, but at any rate it was necessary/in order to defeat the enemy. Then
one night we were up - an attack on the special sector that had to be taken. It
was injected into the our lines times and we had to take that sector, so
at midnight the guns started to play (?) and I climbed on a hill and I saw the
guns from all over shooting their shells to demolish the defensive positions of
the enemy, so then our men could storm it with as little loss of life as possible.
so that was quite an event that this tremendous defensive started and we were
evidently not further away from it that you could see the guns firing. There
were other experiences - we were moved about quite a bit - we were not in a
village very long - pretty soon we had to break up and go somewhere else, so
that we moved about quite a lot.

LHA - Did you have any contact with the civilians?

OPA - There were no civilians

LHA - They were all evacuated -

OPA - They were all evacuated. The only contact we had were the Frenchmen -
French soldiers who were detached there to make the houses habitable and take
care of everything that the French wanted to do.

LHA - Were the relationships between the American soldiers and French soldiers good?

OPA - We didn't see too many French soldiers as far as I could see the relationship was pretty good. There was one man in our group who was really an alcoholic and he was in very bad shape when he didn't get any booze. So when he saw a Frenchman coming - French soldier that had some duties there he insisted on me to talk to this Frenchman and see if he didn't have any cognac he could sell. So since I had some pity for this poor fellow, I occasionally did it and got him some cognac and then after a few drinks you could get anything done with him - he was just as happy as could be. Then finally, the armistice came. See, we never knew where we were exactly, nobody ever told us, we were just told to go into a truck then the truck had instructions to take us somewhere and move us. One time we got a little shipment and it was decided that this shipment would be sold out. There were expensive cigars in it, and cigarettes and so on. The trouble was many of the shipments that arrived from the United States were used behind the lines and what came to the front was only what was left over, so it was really a very poor arrangement. At any rate this
one time we got a shipment and we decided to sell it out, so we unloaded the truck in a shell hole and in the shell hole our man was sitting to sell it to whatever soldiers could make it to our shell hole from the front line - so when they could get away somehow or other - so it was quite an organization and it was running rather smoothly - the spirit was good - we did our duty there and were anxious to get it over with.

LHA - Do you know where you were when the war ended?

OPA - I didn't know where we were when the war ended.

LHA - Was it a surprise to you? Or did you expect it?

OPA - Well - the war being over was more or less a surprise to us because we didn't have a newspaper, we didn't know what was happening in the world. Only at one time I got me in Verdun/a French post - it was way down/in the ground and I went down to see what it was and they had a radio. A radio was something entirely new in those days and they were waiting for news reports. So they got the news reports; that's/only time that I really got a news report while we were at the front, otherwise we never got any news or anything of the kind.

OMA - Holland was neutral during world war I, where were you then. You were living with your family in Rotterdam?
How were living conditions and what was the attitude toward the war of the Dutch people?

OMA - __________________________ I still remember that my father__________

(There seems to be something wrong with the machine at this point - and it appears that someone is trying to fix it or adjust it - but Oma's voice is not coming through clearly enough to understand what she's saying.)

LHA - Even though Holland was neutral what was the attitude of most people toward the war? What was the attitude of the people with the fighting raging all around them?

OMA - In the beginning we were scared, of course, but then we stayed neutral __________________________

OPA - There were a lot of people from Belgium that came to Holland.

OMA - Yes people from Belgium came to Holland to find a place to live

OPA - By the thousands

OMA - Not too many

OPA - Quite a few

OMA - But we had no trouble in our family

LHA - Where was most of the sympathy - for the Germans or for the Allies? in Holland?

OMA - We were against Germany
LHA - During world war II there were a number of quislings in Holland like your next door neighbors, I presume in world war I there were probably many German sympathizers in Holland - were there not?

OMA - Well you know I was very young in 1914 I was 19, so that's pretty young and I still remember that They didn't do very much business. But later on after in 1918

OPA -

OMA - That is the only thing I remember. I cannot remember

LHA - Opa what did your mother and father think about the war and what did they think about you being an American soldier?

OPA - Well, when my mother heard that I was in the army she wasn't too scared because you hear about the war and you hear about the terrible things that happen and the lives being lost so the chances were she would never see me again. Of course, I had been away already a number of years and I could arrange to have part of my salary of $60 a month transferred to my mother but don't forget that my father died during the war so I guess they had too many troubles of their own to worry very much about what was what, so they were just well, trying to keep their heads above water, that's all there is to it.
OMA - Your mother was very scared that you went, though

OPA - Yes

OMP - She came to visit us and I remember that she said - oh you know - Carel has been transferred to Europe. Your mother was very much scared.

OPA - Logical - that's logical

LHA - Well, what happened after the armistice - when you were still generally in the Verdun area?

OPA - We stayed there for a short while and then we were supposed to be part of the army of occupation. So we moved by truck to _________ in Luxemburg where we were supposed to stay for some time with the army of occupation. Fact was that we had transported millions of soldiers to Europe and they couldn't all of a sudden be brought back - they didn't have ships for them. So it took time for they could be evacuated. Although all the fellows after the war were very anxious to get home as soon as possible. But we went to the at first to the to start our duties as the force of occupation and I remember going to a school where I was told to stay during the night and had to sleep on the cement floor in the basement and the - I found an old basket that I put down as as to have something above the cement to keep me away from it and I did sleep some, of
course, we were young, so I could sleep comparatively easy. So after we stayed quite a few days in __________ our Lieutenant got a room in a hotel and he could __________ and he gave this ________ who was an alcoholic - he gave him some money to buy food for the officers' kitchen. So the man didn't come back and after a while we went up to his room and found this man lying in his bad drunk. He used all the money to buy booze, because it was still possible to get booze and of course, he hadn't been able to buy anything all during the war so we forgave him, we understood. At any rate, it was some experience in _______ we stayed a few days then we moved over to _________________ - as I said we never knew exactly where we were, where we went to, how far we were from the front, or what - we just had to obey orders

LHA - Where - Dekush - you said ?

OPA - Diekich

LHA - Where's that?

OPA - In Luxembourg

LHA - Was Luxembourg neutral during the war?

OPA - Luxembourg was occupied by the Germans. So they were liberated by us.

LHA - So you were welcomed to Luxembourg.
OPA - We were welcomed to Luxemburg as heros - everybody exerted themselves to help us and to accommodate us. So, there I didn't have to sleep on a cement floor. There was a son of a baker who talked to me and he took me over to a family who would take me in. So I had a room there and was very comfortable.

LHA - Particularly, before you moved to Luxemburg, before the war was over, how did you get food and what type of food did you have?

OPA - Before we got to Luxemburg?

LHA - Yes, while the war was still on. What sort of rations did you have?

OPA - Well, it was up to the quartermaster to see that we had enough food. There was a kitchen where we could go and have our meals.

LHA - Did the army buy it from local farmers or confiscate it, or did it come from the States, or what sort of pull did you have?

OPA - It came from the States.

LHA - What type of food did you have mostly? Do you remember?

OPA - ______ of course we had white bread and one thing is the Luxemburgers were still famished. We didn't fully realize this, but if they could get some white bread from us, that would be tremendous riches and they were, for instance we had ________________ we had a kitchen and then the men came
there to fill their basket with steak or whatever it was that they had white bread with and then the Luxemburgers were anxious to have us come in and eat our dinner or lunch in their comfortable quarters and ______

we left a couple of slices of bread over and then the family would gather enough bread to really keep them going. That was quite an experience, but in ______

I was also received by - I got a room with the accountant of a steel company in Esh (?) Esh was a steel making city. They were very comfortable and my shoes were polished, they had a maid who polished my shoes, an experience I'll never forget I had never had before and a comfortable bed and everything -

LHA - Doesn't Oma polish them for you now?

OPA - Nobody polishes them but myself. I was 16 years old on Saturday night I had to - in the basement of our store in Holland - I had to polish the shoes for the whole family and now I'm 90 and I still have to polish shoes. So, I ______ all the time.

OMA - ________ progress

LHA - By the way you're 90 but another five days you'll be 91.

OPA - 91 Well - look at that

LHA - And you still have to polish shoes
OPA - So, I haven't really made any progress those 91 years - but at any rate that's deviating from the story -. But at Luxemburg we stayed for - till May only the armistice was on the 11th of November and it was May before we finally got __________. In Dekish we rented a big department store that was empty. It was a furniture store and the owner had really not much use for it he was willing to rent it because it was useful to bring some money. So we rented that store and then we got plenty of supplies evidently, because the supplies came in and none of it was lost anymore, so we had quite a store there where we sold chocolates and cigarettes and all kinds of things - toothpaste - you name it - we had quite an organization. I still have pictures of it. But we really did a big business there and I rented that store and the lieutenant, of course, came to see us occasionally. That was quite an enterprise. So we were quite busy while we were in Luxemburg. Things went along till May when we got orders to evacuate. So then we at one time, I remember, we got a couple carloads of peddy bear (?) biscuits. Now, we are glad that we can get it - peddy bear biscuits. We had so many cases of it that they rented a church that was not being used anymore and we bound/that the chandeliers so there would be more room and we piled up the cases in that church of peddy bear biscuits.
LHA - Were they from France - where were they from?

OPA - Made in France.

LHA - Two carloads is a lot.

OPA - Yes it was a lot - the church was chock full - piled high with cases of petite teddy bear biscuits. We had so many teddy bear biscuits that the soldiers didn't like them anymore and they didn't buy them because they belonged to luxuries were not being supplied by the quartermaster.

LHA - I think that French Petite Bear (?) cookies are still available?

OMA - Yes

OPA - They are a nice cookie - they are nice biscuits to have with tea - they are light and they are thin and they are not too nourishing. So we had quite a stock there and of course, we left it behind because it was up to the army to take care of it. In the army they don't worry about things - you follow your orders - it's up to the management of the officers to decide what's got to be done. So then we were loaded - of course, we had to settle things. If there were instructions that we didn't settle everything properly then the going home would be delayed. Everybody wanted to go home in a hurry so we wanted to settle it.
So I settled with the owner of the building whatever we owed and then we boarded a freight car with so many horses and so many persons 
the inscription on - in French could accommodate so many men and so many horses. So we had that car and there was one train with box cars with troops in it and they moved rather slowly the railroad - I felt that this railroad had very old fashioned cars they dated back maybe fifty years. Finally, we landed in again where we came in and we were of Napoleon they had built new barracks. As a matter of fact, some congressmen had come over and ordered to accommodate us because when we came nobody paid any attention and when we left all the elected officers of the United State Senate and Congress were anxious to please the soldiers because they were coming back to voting. So we were accommodated in every possible way - we had comfortable quarters until it was time to board the ship. Then there was a special troop ship where we went in the hold there were five beds on top of each other where the soldiers - -
LHA - Good evening - we are in Oma and Opa's living room it is November 17, 1983 six days after Veterans Day that honors soldiers of all wars and Opa, when we ended the last tape you were just getting on the troop ship to come home, but I think there were some other happenings before being on the troop ship that you wanted to discuss.

OPA - I want to go back to Camp Johnson in Florida near Jacksonville where I was trained in the administration of the army and the last night we were there, I was sleeping on a bed without a mattress and the bed, of course, had iron _____ that pressed into your flesh, so sleeping wasn't very easy. So I didn't sleep very much that night, but my thoughts were going around and around and naturally when you are preparing to go to the battlefield, you don't feel very sure about yourself and you don't know what's going to happen. I thought, well suppose I lose a leg or lose my eyesight or lose something else, what the result would be. Well, these things, of course, are not very encouraging and the next morning we woke up and then we had to forget about it, because then we got into a train and the ways to Newport News we were really treated very royally at every station where we came until we were in the camp in Newport News before the embarkation and there the officers decided that I should take charge of all the thirteen
sales commissary units while we were there in camp. So we were arriving
pretty late and the cook had to be awakened to prepare our dinner and the cook
wasn't very quick in doing that, that means he wanted to be very quick so he took
a couple of tin cans of preserves and so on and prepared some kind of a light
dinner and the boys were kicking about it, because what kind of a dinner was this
and did he come over to get starved, and so on and so forth. So I - after the
dinner I started to march them back to our billet and they were still kicking and
making a lot of noise. Then I thought, well, they shouldn't go any further, so
I had about more than a hundred men there and so I commanded - halt - right face
and they turned and obeyed the command, of course, naturally. So they stood
still and told them - you fellows are forgetting that you are in a war now in a
war you have to do as you are told, otherwise you get shot - you have to realize
this - you fellows are kicking about the dinner that you don't like so much
during war time it is just a crazy childish thing to do. What you fellows shoul
do is keep your mouths shut and get going. Then I commanded them to turn around
and go - and so they turned around and they were just as quiet as anything -
they didn't say a word anymore and the whole troop came back to the billets and
went to bed and slept. Of course, the next morning we had to get ready and go
and board our ship to head for France. Now during our stay at the front we
never knew where we were, nobody every told us where we were. We were moving
about, never staying at the same place very long and to move all our belongings
with us and so one evening I was sitting in a house. All the houses, of course,
were bombarded and damaged in all these villages and we were sitting in a house
with some Frenchmen that were there to take care of these houses and, of course,
it was a welcomed occasion for me to practice my French with these fellows. Then
all of a sudden there was an airplane over - German airplane and there was a
military transport on the road along the house and the airplane evidently was
aiming for the military transport. So, all of a sudden they dropped a bomb, but
the bomb didn't get on the road, it didn't get on the road, but landed in
the backyard and made a big hole in the yard. But the Frenchmen who were more
trained in warfare than we were - we were just children really as far as warfare
was concerned, they immediately cried out that means seek shelter and they grabbed the two candles that were burning there to give
us some light and put them out then we went down the stairs to the basement.
If the bomb had fallen on the house, of course, there wouldn't have been anythin
left of us. The next morning we went to the backyard and we saw a hole big
enough to hold the whole truck - that was a tremendous bomb that airplane had dropped. These airplanes were comparatively primitive compared with the planes we have now, but nevertheless they could carry a bomb and drop it so that was one thing. Then Well now, at this time when we are just past armistice day, we remember the lights of the trucks went on when the armistice was signed and after that we went to Luxembourg, as I have already said and -. Another thing I want to mention is that after the war when we were in Dekish (?) Luxembourg I got a furlough to go to Belgium. The American soldiers were entitled to a furlough once a year and they could go to Switzerland for the winter sports and everything, but my intension was to go to Holland. Now as an American soldier I couldn't go to Holland because Holland was neutral - was not involved in the war - had succeeded in staying out of the war, but I wanted to go to Holland to see my family whom I hadn't seen for seven years. So, my purpose was to go to Brussels first and see if I could get in Holland. So in Brussels I went to the American Ambassador to see if there was a possibility of going to Holland and he said - well, by joining the army of a foreign nation you have lost your Dutch citizenship, so I can't give you permission to go to Holland but I can write the Hague or telegraph them and see if they can give
permission to you to come to Holland. Well, I was kind of scared about it because I was afraid the American authorities would learn about the Dutch Ambassador communicating his request to the Hague, they might think that I want to desert and, of course, that wasn't in my mind at all. So I thought I'd better try and go to Holland in a clandestine manner. So I contacted my brother, Salder (?) and he arranged to come with civilian clothes to a border city - town at the Dutch-Belgium border and there he would meet me and I would put on my civilian clothes and go to Holland. So finally everything was arranged and the place where we were going to meet each other was also arranged and so I went to the border place and there it appeared the Dutch border guards and the military Belgium border guards had been feuding and quarrelling and so they were placed apart for about a mile. So, in between was really no man's land. So I met my brother in no man's land in a cafe and, of course, we hadn't seen each in so many years we had a few things to talk about. We had to get up to date. So we talked and talked; finally, we came to the conclusion we better be careful and not stay here too long, because we might get in trouble. So I took off my military uniform and put on the civilian clothes and a civilian coat that would cover it all and started out for the border. But when we came to the Dutch
border the soldier that had been guarding it had been replaced - it was a new guard so my brother said I gave the other guard something that he would like and well, the soldier said I didn't get any of it, so I can't let you go. Well, I had taken some small cigars from our commissary with me so I thought well I'll give them to this fellow. So I gave him a little box of cigars, which was a luxury in Holland at that time, because all during the five year war they hadn't been able to import any tobacco or any cigars or anything, so he was very glad to get it and he let us go. Then during the night it was dark at that time and during the night we walked to the next town and met a couple of what they call what are we doing in this border region. My brother said, well this is my
brother and here's a picture in Holland and so on and so forth - he had a big explanation of my being there and the police came to the conclusion we were not dangerous and let us go. Then we came to _________ to take a train to Rotterdam. Of course in _________ there was hardly any danger at all.

We were walking on the dock with a lot of other people waiting for the train and there were a lot of military people there too, but nobody paid any attention to me - I had civilian clothes on, so I didn't look any different from anybody else. So we got on the train and without any hitch we got to Rotterdam and got off the train. That was really a sensation for me who hadn't been in Holland for so many years to be there again and actually see the same scenery again that I'd seen in my younger years. So in Rotterdam we went home and there, of course, I met my mother who was really not too healthy but still not too sick either, but she was just tickled to death to see me and we got together and we had a good time together. Once I was in the house my younger brother, Johan came up the stairway - they had an apartment on the second floor and

LHA - Was Johan married then?

not

OPA - Johan was/married - he was a teacher and at that time he was about
eighteen - nineteen years old.

LHA - Oh, he had an apartment on the second floor over the shop -

OPA - I mean, my mother had an apartment on the second floor or was it the first floor, I don't know - I don't remember.

LHA - This wasn't in your father's cheese shop then?

OPA - No, it had been liquidated

LHA - Your father had died

OPA - My father had died - the business had been liquidated and Salter had taken care of the whole thing liquidated in the proper manner, so then they moved to an apartment and the whole situation was no more business at all. When my youngest brother, Johan came up the stairway I didn't know who he was, because, don't forget, he was eleven years old when I left and now he was eighteen years old. So there is a marked difference between a boy of eleven and a boy of eighteen. So I didn't really recognize him and my mother had to assure me that he was my youngest brother, Johan. So I had a very good time there I also took advantage of the occasion to visit the agent for Burroughs in Amsterdam the Van Mueller (?) Company and talked to them and they complained about the fact that they had no machines and they couldn't get them because, of course, after the war there were too many very urgent things and there was no transportation again.
So that no civilian got to visit Europe and so I thought I'd take advantage of the opportunity to see firsthand what the situation there was.

LHA - Opa, the armistice was November 11 - about what time was this visit to Holland of yours?

OPA - This visit was about in March of the following year. I was going to go toward the end of the year, but then I got a sore throat and I couldn't go, so I had to postpone it and then I got the furlough in March and I went there then. So that was quite an event and then after I had been there for my furlough was for about ten days, I think, - after my furlough was over - I went back with brother Salter to the border and we had some experiences going to the border because there again we were halted by police several times because, as I say at that time, they were very much afraid the communists would come over and stir up a lot of trouble there.

LHA - Opa, during your visit, did you go to see the kind gentleman who loaned you the money to go to America and his charming daughter?

OPA - I don't remember if he visited us or I visited them.

OMA - You visited us - my family

Sluyter

OPA - I visited Mr. Slater - Oma remembers it - I don't have a clear recollection
of all the things I did during those ten days. But then after that all happened
I went back to the border and got to the cafe where I deposited my uniform -
put on my uniform - gave the civilian clothes back to my brother Salter and then
we said goodbye to each other and I went back to Belgium and he went back to
Holland.

LHA - Oma, at this time were you working in the furniture store? Working for
your father and uncle? Or were you too young then?

OMA - Too young - I was studying ____________________________

LHA - The _______ amd ____________

OMA - Fine arts (?)

LHA - Where were you studying?

OMA - In Rotterdam (can't hear any of the rest of what Oma said here)

--- had an examination of three days in the city of ____________

OPA - Do you remember the day when you passed the examination? What year it was

OMA - What year it was - oh, dear -

OPA - The date that Oma graduated as a teacher in ____________ was the
seventeenth of March, 1914, so that was the year in which the war broke out.

LHA - Oma, can you tell us a little bit about your school - your school of
fine arts?

OMA - Well, we are discussing it, of course, but what's the next step - to teach - where - -

LHA - You were just telling me about your hard tests and your graduation. Why don't you - - when you had to go to _________ for your examination after three years to study. What happened when you went to _________ after - -?

OMA - I met my friend ________________ went to ________________ and we had to work all day long from nine o'clock in the morning and my father - we had three fathers there (?) - - - and they put us in the ________________

OPA - he YWCA

OMA - The YWCA we were ________________ and we were exhausted after studying or three days of steady asking questions and ________________

______________________________ so we came out of the building and said to Opa ________________ she was in tears.

LHA - How many girls took the tests?

OMA - Eleven

LHA - How many passed?

OMA - Three
LHA - Just three

OMA - I didn't want to be too joyful because I hadn't any problem, because the (?) pupil sitting next to me - she flunked, but then of course, after that the dust was settled and mother said - what are you going to do now - teach? Or private lessons - or whatever? And then I couldn't make a decision yet. Then my father came home one day - he said my cousin Andrew, who worked with my uncle Fonce (?) in the business in the office - he had to go into the army - he had to serve for more than three years.

OPA - On account of the war -

OMA - Yes - So Uncle Fonce said to my father - that one of your girls could come in and take __________________ in the office. I worked ______

_____________________________ didn't want it

LHA - This was right after you were out of school? - out of college?

OMA - Yes - so ___________________ didn't want it - she said she wasn't interested. So my father said - that's good, why don't you do it? It's good for you to do some bookkeeping and learn that and then my cousin, Andrew said he insisted that he work me in for maybe six weeks or so, so that I know exactly what was going on in the office. So I didn't have to ask Uncle Fonce
So he worked me in __________________ and I helped my uncle for almost
two and a half years ________________ so that was interesting.

LHA - From your fine arts school - was that where you made this beautiful fire
screen?

OMA - I did it after my examination, Lee, because I was so thankful for my
parents that had given me this education and so one day I made up my mind I said
to my parents - I'm very thankful for what you have done for me, had
______________ years - what can I make for you? Then my father/the idea
he said - why don't you make a nice screen for the fireplace downstairs? So I
went to my teacher again - I said I want to make something for my parents what
do you think about a screen? So she gave me a suggestion - she said to make it
on __________ silk and ___________________ and let your father ________
have it screened -

OPA - Framed

OMA - Framed - and my father said that wood is beautiful. So he selected the
wood and I made it. I'm tickled to pieces.

LHA - It's beautiful. After all these years it's still so beautiful/colors

OMA - and it is on both sides the same. That is the amazing part of it.
OPA - An excellent piece.

OMA - They were really very much pleased with it.

OPA - But when I came to visit Holland you were no longer working in the business.

LHA - If it's so funny, I want to hear about it. What are you looking at?

OPA - It's a proof of virtuous conduct.

LHA - Oh my goodness - for whom?

OPA - Tell you how many it says - seven

LHA - How did you get a proof of virtuous conduct?

OMA - I've never seen that - what is that?

OPA - That's from your teacher. So that's proof that you were a decent person.

LHA - That your teacher in the fine arts school?

OMA - No - it is a teacher in the school.

OPA - Teacher in high school.

OMA - That's funny.

LHA - I'm glad to know you were a nice girl.

What other documents do you have there?
OPA - Wait a minute -

OMA - I gave it to you now

OPA - I've kept it all these years - so probably will keep it a little longer.

OMA - Sometimes I think ________ my father build a business with his

____________________now comes a young cousin who has all kinds of ________

ambitions _____________ beautiful new building and all that ________

my father

LHA - What did Uncle Fronce think of this?

OMA - Uncle Fronce - he didn't want his son ________what he wanted him to
do. Of course, my aunt, Uncle Fronce's wife she had a _____________

OPA - _________________

LHA - 1918 - This is a letter of March 15, 1918 from the Burroughs Adding

Machine Company - Mr. Carel Sellenraad - the New York office - how did that
happen?

OPA - I worked at the New York office then.

LHA - After the war - well we haven't gotten there -

OPA - That was before the war

LHA - This is 1918 though - this letter was written after the war
OPA - That could be - yes

LHA - Well, maybe we better continue with the - - -. There it is now, we can refer to some of these documents later. Well, you were just on your way to sneak back across the border and I must say that I'm surprised that my father-in-law, who takes cigars from the commissary, bribes the guards at the border and hides his uniform, I must say I'm pretty shocked at all this, but I'm glad you didn't get caught.

OMA - How did he have the courage to do it? How stupid.

LHA - Yes, Opa, I'm just surprised

OPA - Well it may be stupid but you see I was very very young -/you have only limited __________. You don't realize that but that's a fact. So it would have been wiser and better if I had taken up the offer of the Dutch Ambassador in Brussels to get permission for me to go to Holland officially.

LHA - Well you didn't get caught did you?

OPA - I didn't get caught. I didn't get caught going in and I didn't get caught going out, although we were inspected by police several times, but going out was also quite hectic and difficult but we sneaked across the border and found my uniform
and with the American soldier's uniform I had no trouble to get into Belgium because the Americans were the ones who had saved the war, really, that's what it amounted to. The Americans were very popular everywhere in Europe at that time, like they probably after the second world war in contrast to what they are sometimes now, but thanks to the propaganda of our enemies in Moscow.

Where were we?

LHA - You've gotten your uniform back and you're on your way back to join the army again.

OPA - So we went back to our troop ship, of course, it was no more danger--- of submarines

END OF SIDE "B"   TAPE #3
LHA - Good evening - whoever is listening to us. It is now Saturday, November 19, Carel's birthday - Carel Sellenraad's birthday, Opa's son. We've just completed a delicious dinner. Marieke and myself, Oma and Opa, Adrian who left before we did the dishes, because he wanted to go to a party in E. Lansing and with Horace, who delightfully unexpectedly dropped in on us. Well, Opa when we left the last tape you were just getting on the boat and commented we don't have to worry about submarines anymore.

OPA - That's true, but I want to go back to my visit to the Netherlands and you were asking whether during my visit Gertrude and I got a little closer. I have to say that during that week we were only in Holland one week and I had to visit so many people that I wanted to see, including the agent dealer who was handling Burroughs machines and because civilian travel was still impossible. So I felt that if I visited the dealer I would be able to get first hand reports to Burroughs when I got back to Detroit. So I went to visit the dealer and when I went to visit a lot of other people. So during the week I visited probably Mr. Slater (?) only once and not more than that and there was nothing the matter with it. Now, to understand the whole situation you have to realize what Sluiter the situation is. Now, Mr. Slater and my father and ______________ from
Holland who was a missionary in New Guinea. When___________ when they
were young people they all members of the YMCA named after the old prophet,
___________ and they were friends with each other and that's probably why
my father met the sister of _____________ and ultimately married her.

Now my father had a device the slogan "better a small boss than a big servant"
in his words in Dutch it was "__________________________" Well,
so he started when he saw a chance he started to have his own business but he
started it on a shoestring and what he should have done is to wait until he had
saved enough money to have sufficient capital to run his business, but he got
married before that was accomplished and the result was that all of his life he
was struggling with creditors and paying the bills and I've seen all the misery
of that. When I went to commercial college and finished my courses in bookkeep-
ing and everything else - commercial arithmetic and so on, I wanted to modern-
ize the bookkeeping to see exactly how our business was standing, but I had no
cooperation of my father. Of course, if I had been more clever than I was at
the age of 18, I probably would have succeeded in doing it anyway, without the
cooperation of my father, but at that time I didn't feel that I was able to do
that, so that was really one of the main reasons why I left home. Now another
principal of my father was - "when the money goes out the door, love goes out through the window" - and my mother taught me - "first get a cage before you get a bird" - and those two things they really live according to them, because they got married too early probably, but the fact is that it made such an impression on me, I really felt that I should avoid all entanglements until I was in a financial position that I could really get married. Now when I visited Holland that position hadn't come about yet. I was still a soldier, still working in the army of the United States of America and I was not able to think about marriage or anything, but as I say, I was only in Holland for one week, so there was no possibility of doing anything else but visiting relatives and friends and other people whom I hadn't seen for seven years. So the visit had nothing to do with our later marriage. I went, therefore, to the United States on a troop ship, I saw all the fellows spending their time throwing dice and playing for money and lost money or they gained money. A couple of fellows had been married to some kind of a loose girl that they found on the way over and some of these girls were having fun with all the other fellows too. So they were really crazy, they probably got permission from the authorities to take their wives along. But the fact is that whether they were happily married -
is another question. -

LHA - These were men on the troop ship with you, you said?

OPA - On the troop ship with the United States Army who met girls in Europe and wanted to marry them.

LHA - But the girls couldn't come on the troop ship -

OPA - They could come on the troop ship. But some of them really made more fun with the other soldiers than with their husbands. The fact is that I didn't envy the four fellows that were stuck that way. Well, anyhow, we arrived in New York without any trouble and went to Camp Johnson to be discharged.

LHA - Where is Camp Johnston?

OPA - No - another camp in Michigan - now I have to think about it what the name of that camp was. At any rate it was a big camp with a lot of wooden structures where we were ___________. And then Congress had adopted a law sometime before that - that every man of a foreign nationality who had served in the armed forces during the war was eligible to take over American citizenship. Now when I was in Brussels trying to go to Holland, the Ambassador told me I had lost my Dutch citizenship by joining a foreign army without special permission from the Queen. So I really if I had gotten out of the army without
doing anything about it, I would be without a nationality, which would be a very undesirable situation. So I decided to take advantage of the opportunity which the Congress gave me to become an American citizen. Normally an American citizen has to - a foreigner - who wants to become an American citizen has to comply with a lot of requirements to be a resident of a certain state for a number of years and so on and so forth. Since I traveled about quite a bit I couldn't comply with all these requirements, but being in the army, I could become an American citizen without any trouble. So I became an American citizen one day before I was discharged from the army. So I got out of the army and I went back to Detroit and then I reported to Burroughs where I had worked for in New York and the Advertising Department or the Foreign Department really and wanted to take me on to prepare some Dutch advertising for a dealer in Holland.

LHA - Opa, there's one thing about the army I wanted to ask you. You were a Petty Officer, but you were a foreigner - was this resented - this young foreign kid was their Petty Officer, telling them - giving them their orders - was this resented by the other American soldiers?

OPA - How would they know?

LHA - By your accent -
OPA - Well - there were other people - we had a sargeant in our company - he was of German descent, so that would be a lot worse than Dutch descent, which wasn't in the war, the Germans were our enemies, but he was more America-like than anyone else. So he had to show that he was a real American. So the situation was so that even if a foreigner was there - well he was in the army and he was serving the United States, so nobody had any objections against it. So I didn't notice that anybody on that account. But I had one experience in the army when we were in Luxembourg in _______ the xxx in the army of occupation at that time that some of the fellows were kind of jealous for what I don't know what was behind it, but they simply can't stand a man who is - so to say virtuous and doesn't go along with all the evil things that most of the men will do. So at one time we were having dinner at our kitchen - was right in a square in ________ and the fellows saw many people there were anxious to get the soldiers to eat a dinner in their homes and because very often they got white bread from the kitchen they would leave it to the people and the people in Luxembourg didn't have any white bread or anything of the kind - they were still in a war situtation, so if the soldiers left their white bread behind that would be a great benefit to the Luxembourg citizens. So at one time I was'
in one of these homes and there were a couple fellows from another unit and they started an argument with me about the Luxemburgers that they were disloyal to the Americans, which of course, I resented, because I thought they didn't understand what the situation was. So I argued that these Luxemburgers were trying to help us and they were really favorably inclined toward us.

LHA - This was when you were in the Luxemburger's home -

OPA - When I was in the Luxemburger's home, where we got dinner, there were several soldiers there and all of a sudden one of these fellows he hit me with his fist in the face on the nose and my nose started bleeding tremendously - he really hit me in a knock-out way and I was thrown over then the women, of course in the room started to shout and told the fellows to get out, so on and so forth. So I wasn't able to resist or do anything at all, because I was surprised about it and I had to - these fellows then went out - and I had to try to stop the bleeding from my nose, because it was just flowing out like anything and because they certainly did hit me right and when I got in little better shape I finally went home to where I was staying. But my nose was swelling up like the dickens. So for a number of days I had a great big nose. Well what should I do about it? Of course, I could have complained because the trouble was I
didn't know from unit these fellows were - they had evidently contacted the fellows in our own unit who were jealous or envious or hated me for some other reason or other and they just thought they would beat me up in some way. So I didn't really report it to the authorities. The trouble was also, of course, that we at that time were pretty well located in [blank] but we never knew how long we were going to stay there and where we were going so that that it would be very difficult to punish anybody because maybe the next day the unit might have to leave and go somewhere else. So I thought the best thing to do is forget about it and just wait and see if my nose got better again. Whether the middle section of my nose on that account got crooked so that I have trouble sometime breathing through one nostril, I don't know. At any rate these fellows had some satisfaction by hitting me or what really the motive was wasn't clear to me at all, but there may be certain things. People who really do things they shouldn't do just want everybody else to join them and anybody who opposes them or acts in a different way, they hate and they try to eliminate them - that's all there is to it. So in an army, you not only have to fight the enemy, but they fight each other, if you aren't careful, especially when a lot of fellows are sticking together. That's why during the war we had to move from one vil-
village to another because it wasn't safe to leave soldiers in one place very long. But, of course, since we were in the army of occupation, we were in Dekish (?) for about six months and we didn't move until we were ready to go back to the United States. So that's about the story. Now, the story about the Naval guns I think I told you - that I saw a 16 inch gun that was trained with a ____________ to shoot at the Germans. So, of course at that time I didn't realize what the dangers were because the enemy might have hit us too, but you never knew where you were, you might be killed all of a sudden without knowing where it comes from or you might be wounded or you might lose a leg or anything else, but moreover we were novices, we were not experienced in war, so we really didn't realize what all the dangers were. That might be a good thing, because we might have had nervous prostration if we had realized it all. But we came through it without any trouble; as a matter of fact, we left, as I said before, with 13 men because one man got sick, there were 14 men but the one man got sick so the 13 left for Europe but then at Christmas the sick man had gotten better and was sent over to Europe to join his unit, but he couldn't find his unit - he went from one place to another, finally at Christmas he found us, we were in Luxemburg, so he joined us, so there were 14 of us again.
But then when we left in May for the United States one of our men got sick and so we were 13 again when we arrived in the United States and we were happy that none of our men were killed or wounded and that we were all safely home again.

LHA - Did you ever keep in touch with any of these people after the war?

OPA - I didn't keep in touch with any of these people after the war because they scattered all over the United States and there was really no organization that would cause any homecoming or anything like that. So, I was very sorry that I didn't see any of the men after that - there were some nice fellows there and some disagreeable people like you have everywhere in every society because in army, of course, you are taken from all walks of life and all states of the Union and you find all kinds of people in there. We had one man who, I think I told this story, who was an alcoholic and he was pretty nice fellow, especially when he had a drink he was really more than nice, you could make him do anything that you wanted to, because he was just anxious to please everybody. But when he hadn't had a drink for some time, he was just miserable, so miserable that even though I was against alcohol, he persuaded me to get some cognac from some Frenchman - then when he had some cognac, by golly, he really felt good.

LHA - Opa, we've gotten you back then after the war - you were discharged from
an army camp in Michigan and you were back in Detroit and back to Burroughs.

OPA - So I went to work at Burroughs and I translated some advertising in Dutch

I was sitting in the Foreign Department and -

LMA - This would have been when - in the fall of 19-

OPA - That was in the spring of 1919. Well then while I was there awhile the dealer in Holland made me an offer to come to Holland and become manager in Rotterdam. Now manager in Rotterdam sounds very nice, but what it really meant that Rotterdam was being visited by one of their salesmen one day a week so I would have to start an organization there and the offer was I was going to get 5000 guilders a year as a salary and then I would get commission and I thought it over, I thought well, after all my mother was not too healthy - not in too good shape - I thought it would be a good chance to go back to Holland. That's another thing you have to remember, that when I visited for a week in Holland I didn't know whether I would ever come back to Holland or not. As far as I could see, I would go back to the United States and stay there, but since the dealer made me an offer to come back to Holland to take charge of their sales in Rotterdam - they didn't have any office in Rotterdam or anything, but that had to be established, of course -
LHA - Where was their office?

OPA - "They had an office in Amsterdam on the ____________, a beautiful building - old fashioned building of the 16th century and they had equipped a large dining room as a show room for Burroughs - it was a really fashionable building and they had two houses there, because they combined, they remodeled them, put in an elevator and it was a really beautiful place, although it was not so very practical for our purpose.

LHA - What street was this on?

OPA - on the ________________

LHA - Oh - that's not the office you had after world war II -

OPA - That was - no - no connection. Because after world war II it was a subsidiary of Burroughs, not the dealer anymore. So the offer of the dealer in Holland looked to me rather attractive - I thought it would be a good thing to go back to Holland and to be able to visit my relatives, rather than during the one week that I was there had a light visit with everybody and so I decided that I would accept the offer and I discussed it with the manager of the Foreign Department -

LHA - Who was that - do you remember?
OPA - That was Mr. Hoglan (?). He was a nice fellow and he advised me to accept the offer and go there. So, I though well, I didn't realize that by going to work for a dealer I buried myself, because I was nonexisting as far as Burroughs was concerned, because I was working for a dealer, not for Burroughs, but at any rate when you are young you don't realize all things and so I did go and accept the offer and Burroughs bought for me a first class ticket because you have to make a good showing - a good impression. I bought some silk shirts and bought some other things that looked very good and so I thought now I'll present myself as a first class salesman in Holland.

LHA - Burroughs paid for your ticket to go over?

OPA - No - the dealer had to pay for my ticket but I bought it in the first place myself, but expected to be reimbursed by the dealer in Holland who asked me to come over. So we went first class on the New Amsterdam, I think it was.

LHA - You say "we"?

OPA - No, I - I alone - I'm so used now to saying "we" - but at that time I was a single man - just totally single - no bride in sight.

LHA - What would a first class ticket have cost on the New Amsterdam or tourist class - do you remember?
OPA - I don't remember how much it cost, probably $300-400 maybe less.

LHA - Then you weren't in Detroit very long with Burroughs -- just a matter of a very few months -

OPA - Three months. So toward fall I arrived in Rotterdam and, of course, I visited my mother again, my mother had become sick and was more or less in bed all the time and in the household I could, of course, stay and then I started my work. After three months my results were not spectacular. They sent me a duplex machine and I wanted to send it back to Amsterdam because I had no direct use for it and the dealer said well after all they're selling them here quite a bit and so why should you send it back? They weren't very much satisfied with my accomplishments after three months.

LHA - You were the only one in Rotterdam?

OPA - I was the only one in Rotterdam at that time.

LHA - Did you have an office? Or did you work out of your house?

OPA - I had nothing to start with. But pretty soon I found an office and the dealer agreed to rent it, so it was on ____________ at the corner of the Mosse [?].

Mussel--(?) - no wait a minute - the Mussel--(whatever) came later, but it was at the corner of ____________ on the first plane (?) the first plane was
really a center place at Rotterdam, so we were on the second floor and we
started an office there. Then my brother Johan he had organized a lot of boy
scout troops among the __________ of the Rotterdam's bank

LHA - Among the who? Who did he organize the ________ boy scouts with?

OPA - He was teacher and he was also very much interested in the leadership
of boys - boy scouts. He organized the boy scout group of the picalos (?!)
of the Rotterdam's bank.

LHA - What are the picalos?

OPA - The picalo was an errand boy. In those days they didn't have all the com-
munication that you have today, so the picalos went around to the bank to bring
their messages from one department to another. So they went around to do all
kinds of errands and all kinds of things that had to be done. So they were
mostly young fellows 16 or 17 years old. So my brother with the cooperation of
the Rotterdam's bank organized a boy scout group of the picalos.

LHA - This was in addition to his full time job -

OPA - He was a teacher in the public schools. But in addition he was very much
interested in the leadership of young people and so he headed that organization
and he was able to inspire these boys
so that they would be better boys and better picalos, really. So the connection was so good that a lot of these boys have remained friends with him all their lives. Some of these boys applied for jobs with us and we wanted to take on one or two boys to take care of the office and become salesmen later. So I took on a couple of boys; one of the boys got - there was a toilet there at the side of the building and that gave a view of the restaurant opposite it and there was a hotel upstairs and one of the boys saw a girl there - daughter of the owner of the hotel and fell in love with her right through the window and so ultimately he married her. That was kind of funny. These boys really developed and became pretty good salesmen in the long run after years. So gradually we got some kind of an organization in Rotterdam and after a while, of course, the canvassing that I was doing and the intensive work I was doing was really bearing fruit - not immediately, but through a lot of perseverance we kept going, but ultimately there were possibilities and these possibilities in many cases were realized.

I remember visiting Matte and Zonin (?) banker in Rotterdam and we had a relative who had a brother who was working there and he asked me one time when I was busy in the bank - he says - you come all the way from America to sell machines?

I said - yes, I did - he says - you have any typewriters - that was all he knew
about - I said no, I have no typewriters - he said, what have you got then?

adding

I said I've got any machines - calculating machines. He said well, only adding machines and calculating machines? He says, how can you make a living just selling adding machines and calculating machines? I said well, I think I can make a living doing that and before two years had passed by I had sold that same one bank a large amount of bookkeeping machines and also one time/of the directors came to my showroom and I demonstrated the Burroughs calculator and he felt gee that was a wonderful machine - we should really have one of these machines - so he bought one and then they bought more and at the Rotterdam Bank they had some old comptometers and I proposed - I found out when I visited the bank that these people didn't know how to use a comptometer, really - they used it a little bit for adding, but that's all. I said you can use it for calculating and calculate the exchanges of foreign money and everything else and there is no reason why you shouldn't do it and so with the management of the Rotterdam Bank we agreed to start a course of instruction as to how to use that old comptometer. So, we had a lot of girls coming to our office and learn how to use a comptometer or a Burroughs calculator.

LiHA - Did they operate the same way?
OPA - Operated the same way - the only minor difference - I mean - they are both key driven machines. Anyhow the result was that we sold the Rotterdam Bank five calculators and they were installed and I instructed the people how to use them. Then we sold another five calculators - then another five calculators - then another five calculators - we sold quite a number of these machines to the Rotterdam Bank. So there was another bank that I visited and the manager of the bank he looked at me and I demonstrated a calculator for him and he said well don't forget all these banks were working without machines and they were doing everything by hand operation, so this manager said, well we'll take a test we can see if that machine is of any value. Now, I've got a cash book here and my bookkeeper will add up the column here and you add the column on your machine and we'll see who is faster and who is more accurate. Well, I kept my fingers crossed because I'd only have to hit the wrong key to make a mistake and get the wrong total, but as it turned out, I was through quicker then the bookkeeper was the bookkeeper evidently wasn't too well trained in mental adding - it took him more time. So he was slower than I was and moreover, he was wrong and my total was correct. So the machine was sold. So I sold that bank that one machine. At the Rotterdam Bank I sold quite a number of machines. The policy I followed
was to instruct the people to use the machines they had in the proper manner
when we sold it a considerable sale and I remember when I came to Amsterdam
and Mr. ________ was handling the banks in Amsterdam, he couldn’t
understand how I could sell so many calculators to the banks in Rotterdam.

LHA - How long did it take to satisfy your boss that you were doing a good job?

OPA - I think by that time he was convinced that I was doing a good job and that
I was accomplishing something, because after all when - well that was much later
so we’d better reserve that for a later story. But the situation was so that
now the requirement that my mother put up - "first get a cage - then the bird"
well - the cage was there.

LHA - Do you want to save that for the next installment? We'll close for tonight
we'll start the romantic issue tomorrow. Good Night.

LHA - Good evening - it is now July 8, 1984. It's been a long time since our
last recording. I'm sitting with Oma and Opa in our living room on Moross Road
Marieke is out walking the dog. Opa we had just gotten through discussing the
situation where you sold a lot of machines because you were able to outperform
the man with your calculating machine compared to him doing it by hand. Do you
recall. Okay, now how did your career develop from there and I want to know
how and when you met Oma again then.

OPA - Well, there was no problem because Mr. Slater and De Zeeuw had put up the money for me to go to the United States. They were the best friends of our family and so to go and visit Mr. Slater would be quite a normal thing.

So, of course, I naturally met Gertrude and gradually we went out together and got better acquainted and so in the course of time we came to the conclusion it would be a good thing to get married. So we first had an engagement party and friends came over, especially my good friend Jan Goudsboem made all kinds of presentations and entertained everybody and that made it really a festive occasion.

LHA - Do you remember him Oma?

OMA - Yes, yes -

OPA - So we __________________ party

OMA - Nice party --

OPA - Engagement party at the home of Mr. Slater

LHA - Is an engagement party usually a pretty big party?

OPA - So after you're engaged in Holland then you go and visit members of the mutual families to get acquainted and learn to know the probable new member of
the family and so after we had done that for about a year we decided to get married. We were looking for a place to live and I had an idea I wanted to live outside of the city of Rotterdam. Mr. Slater had a double apartment, that means there was an apartment downstairs on the first floor - second floor and another floor on the third and the fourth floors and so he offered an apartment to us, but we came to the conclusion that we would prefer to live outside of the city, dating back to my American experience where a lot of people live in the suburbs.

LHA - Were you living then in Rotterdam or Amsterdam?

OPA - Rotterdam. My family was living in Rotterdam.

LHA - Were you working in the store then, Oma?

OPA - No she wasn't working in the store

LHA - Oh, you had retired from working in the store?

OMA - I think when we got engaged, my cousin who was in the army - I took the place of my cousin in the office of my uncle and he came back from the army so I got back again

LHA - Then you were just living at home - not working

OPA - At home and helping with household and ready to be engaged and do all the
things that --

OMA - My sister was already married - I was the only girl

that worked (?) there

LHA - How long was your engagement?

OPA - A year

LHA - A year - my goodness

OPA - It takes a year before you get well acquainted, before your mutual fam-

ilies get acquainted, your sisters, uncle and aunts and everybody else and so

I think a year is a good time to get acquainted. We see too many cases here in

the United States where people get married in a hurry after knowing each other

for only one or two months and then after a while they get divorced because they

can't get along with each other.

LHA - Were you when you were engaged always chaperoned, or did you manage to

sneak out by yourselves sometimes?

OPA - We didn't go out very much - when we did go out we weren't chaperoned -

we were decent people so we were behaving ourselves properly - so there was no

problem.

OMA - Yes - we went to concerts -
OPA - See - so, we just enjoyed ourselves. Of course, I had my work everyday and sometimes in the evening I came over for dinner, I don't know whether I came over every evening, but I don't think every evening, but occasionally and during weekends and we just enjoyed ourselves and went out and went to the park or went somewhere else, but nothing spectacular.

LHA - Excuse me, were you still living with your family or were you living somewhere else?

OPA - No, my father had died, my mother was more or less dying I'd say when I came home she was lying in bed and was in a very bad stage; the doctor examined her you might say every week because she had lung consumption and which she probably contracted from my father who had it first - how he got it, I don't know. At any rate, she was in very poor health when I came home so after some time - some months - she died and so that was very sad and the question was - then I lived with my brother Salder, too and brother Johan.

LHA - Oh, the three of you lived together -

OPA - The three of us were living together that's right and we had a lady householder who was taking care of the house, was cooking our meals and she was engaged to a friend of Salder, so that went all very nicely. So we had a household on the ____________ - it was only a five minutes walk to where
Gertrude lived on the ____________, so we had no trouble getting together, it wasn’t very far, we didn’t get together everyday, but we got together quite frequently and we’d go out on certain days and visit our relatives and get acquainted. So that was a very useful period and I think it was a good thing to take a year to really get acquainted and know each others idiosyncrasies.

So after a year we decided to get married and I wanted to really get into the suburbs and although Opa at first and Oma would have very much liked us to occupy the apartment above their own apartment. Oma was helpful in seeing ads in the paper where an apartment in ____________ was for rent and so we went after it and we rented it for 15 hundred gilders a year, which was quite a bit of money to pay for rental, but I was making pretty good money with ____________ & Company in ____________. The marriage, of course, was performed in all style in the Dienraad, where I went very often on Sunday morning with my mother when I was still at home and after the wedding we had a family dinner in the ________________ in the Zoological Park, which was a very fancy for all and we had a very fancy dinner.

OMA - The Society Building

LHA - At the Zoological Park?
OPA - Zoological Park - yes, but they had a Society Building in the park which we rented and they had all the facilities that you could think of. So we had our dinner there and it was very well prepared and at the end we had burning ice cream. They put cognac on the ice cream, I guess, and put fire to it, so they came into the hall with the burning ice cream and the flames could go all over and then we had our dessert.

OHA - A beautiful dinner

OPA - Then we had arranged for -
ROUGH DRAFT

Tape #4   (Carel Sellenraad)   April 21, 1985
Side "B"

OPA - We spent our honeymoon in Ellecom _______ in the Eastern part of Holland
in beautiful surroundings, beautiful forest and so on, where we had _________
__________ apartment with everything we needed - we didn't have to worry
about anything we came there for our meals and we went out everyday on our bi-
cycles and enjoyed ourselves. After the -

Ve\uwe

LHA - Was this in the Valua - this Ellecom?

OMA - Yes - E-l-l-e-c-o-m

Ve\uwe

LHA - Was that in the Valua?

OPA - Yes

OPA - After the dinner our wedding dinner, we left - there was a horse and

 carriage waiting for us and they took us to the station. We took a late train

to _________ where my Gertrude's brother-in-law had arranged for our hotel

for us and so we went to the hotel and that's where we spent the first night.

LHA - Gertrude's brother arranged it -

OPA - Brother-in-law. So today - the next morning we boarded the train for

Ellecom and went to Ellecom and came to the place where we had made our reserva-

tion and spent our vacation of a couple weeks there. So after weeks we came

back to Rotterdam and I resumed my - no wait a minute - after our vacation
Gertrude's sister, Cori - Cory (?) had prepared the apartment that we had rented in Varsnaar and so we came back to ____________ to start living in our new apartment which was quite a sensation. The new apartment was located above a post office. The post office had two apartments above the post office on the ground floor and one was for the director of the post office and the other one was for rent and so we rented it and we lived there for quite a number of years - about six years. So then I had to go by bicycle to the railroad station and take a train directly to Rotterdam every morning and came back the same way evening, which was quite a job, but it would have been more comfortable, probably, if we had actually accepted the offer of Gertrude's father to take the apartment above their apartment, but well young people have their own ideas and that's what we followed. At first we found that living in ____________ was wonderful - it was beautiful weather, beautiful surroundings and on Sunday we could see people coming on bicycles and every kind of vehicle they could find to enjoy the day and the beautiful surroundings; we could see the sand dunes ____________ and we had lots of friends and relatives who would want to visit us on holidays and enjoy our garden and our apartment, but during the winter we didn't see anybody. They didn't bother to come
out to ______________ because it was too far out of the way and with bad weather in the winter, there was no fun going there.

LHA - Oma I wanted to ask about your wedding - did you go to the church and then to the court house then the wedding reception - or how did - -. Don't you have two weddings in Holland - the legal one in the court house and then you go to a church wedding - or didn't you have a church wedding? Do you remember?

OMA - We had a church wedding

LHA - But then didn't you have to go to the city hall after that - or not?

OMA - No - the wedding at city hall was separate.

OPA - We went to the city hall and got officially married - that was our marriage

OMA - And documents

OPA - And we talked to one of the aldermen who was officiating for the occasion in the beautiful city hall of Rotterdam ____________ had a very buatiful new city hall that was built on the ____________ and it was really a pleasure to be there and be married there. From the city hall we went around in our carriage drawn by horses to go to the church where we had a service. That was also the same morning - I think so. We first went to the city hall and then we
went to the church for a church wedding. The church wedding to a certain extent was superfluous - we could suffice without a church wedding and get married at the city hall, because the city, of course, the separation of state and church, although the conceptions of those separations are somewhat different in Holland than they are here. At any rate, you could get married at the city hall and the church wedding was entirely separate from it - had nothing to do with it and was merely a recording for the church that you were married. Moreover, our churches in Rotterdam were not parochial churches, they were really churches of the ____________, that means the reformed church, not actually the reformed church, but it used to be the state church, ________________ and they recorded it on the church records that you were married.

LHA - Marieke and Suzy just came in - I've been hearing about their wedding and their honeymoon.

OPA - That had nothing to do with the city wedding. That was, of course, before the - we go on our honeymoon.

OMA - After the church wedding we went to the dinner - dinner party

OPA - We took a little ride in the carriage and then came to the Zoological Garden for our dinner.
LHA - The wedding party was in the zoo

___ - Yes I know - but where and in which church were you married in?

OMA - The St Lawrence Kerk

OPA - The __________________ - the __________________ during the second world war was destroyed by the Germans.

OMA - in the Zoological Gardens there was the Society Building where all the dinners were given.

___ - That's like the War Memorial

LHA - They were just mentioning that they lived in Wassenaar six years after they were married

OPA - Yes __________________

LHA - What does that mean?

OPA - That was the street where we were living

OMA - _________________________

LHA - Huh?

OMA - That's a great pair of pants

(Right here it seems everybody's talking at once and I can't figure out any of it.)
LHA - Well then what caused you to move from Vasenaar?

OPA - We didn't move from Vasenaar - we lived there for six years

OMA - Our son Fred was born there

OPA - Our son Fred was born there and shortly after Fred was born we bought a house on __________________________ that was a little distance from where we were living, closer to the railroad station. So, we moved after maybe less than a year after Fred was born and I remember the movers came over to move all the furniture and they almost hoisted the cradle with the baby out of the window.

OMA - I don't remember that

OPA - At the last moment we saved the baby in the cradle. So, then we moved to __________________________ and there we lived for one or two years.

LHA - Still in Vasenaar

OPA - Yes

--- (I think Mrs. Allen is speaking here) Did you work mostly in the Hague then.

OPA - I worked in Rotterdam. I had the whole southern district - the whole southwestern district of Holland.
LHA - You were still working for Vermullen

OPA - That's right Vermullen & Company. They were agents for all kinds of commodities. They had an importing agency for English woolen material. They visited tailor shops and everything to sell their woolens. They also had an asbestos agency and other articles. So they also got the Burroughs agency and Mr. __________ went to Berlin one time and visited the dealer who was handling Burroughs and he got a sub-agency in Holland for Burroughs and he had a lot of trouble selling it. He engaged some salesmen and they had to sell it, but it didn't go too easy and finally he was engaged with the savings bank in Rotterdam to sell them a number of machines and he came to the conclusion if I get an order I'll quit the agency, because it's a nuisance, it doesn't pay really. But after he got the order he decided to stick with it and when I came to Holland during my stay in Luxemburg with the army of occupation I made it a point to also visit the dealer in Amsterdam and after I was in Amsterdam and back in America they made me an offer to come to Holland. Since my mother was rather sick and since I was very willing and anxious to visit my family again which I had seen for only a week when I visited from Luxemburg after the war, I accepted the offer from Vermullen. Our export manager at that time commented...
recommended that I accept it, so I took the offer because I was at that time working in Detroit in the advertising department to translate some advertising in Dutch for the Dutch dealer.

LHA - Who was the export manager then?

OPA - The export manager was - I would have to think about that because these names are not quite indelible in my mind --

(stopped tape for a while)

-- It was much later

OPA - Oh, it was much later

-- Where is Ellecom?

OPA - Ellecome _________ -- your husband knows better than you do

-- (Again, I think this is Mrs. Allen speaking, but I'm not sure) Is it _______?

OMA - __________

LHA - By the way, what year were you married?

OPA - 1921 - May 12th

-- Where did you stay in Ellecome?

OPA - ____________________________
— Is it still there?

OMA - Oh, I don’t know - I could hardly believe that

OPA - Probably it isn’t there - probably these people are dead long ago.

LHA - When you left Burroughs can you remember the names of the people you knew then at Burroughs? I asked you about the export manager, maybe there are other names you remember.

OPA - The export manager’s name was - I would have to look it up to see what his name was.

LHA - What were the names of some of the other people you knew then?

OMA - when we lived in that house on the one day the older gentleman came to visit us and we were highly surprised and he offered Opa to come to Amsterdam and take the leadership there and I was surprised too and I said that will be a hard decision Mr. he said - we need your husband Mrs. Sellenraad, we need your husband badly I hop he will do it. We will have to think it over. He pleaded and pleaded - we need you in Amsterdam.

OPA - He said - we’ll pay your weight in gold
OMA - Oh yes - they said you'll have to convince him - we'll pay your husband's weight in gold.

LHA - I hope you accepted that deal - that would have been a good deal.

OPA - Yes, I accepted that deal and the result finally was that I was fired.

LHA - Why wouldn't you want to go to Amsterdam?

OPA - Well that's another question. The whole thing has to be explained, you see the situation in Rotterdam had developed I had engaged, for instance, a young man by the name of ________________; I still got a letter from him after last New Year's telling me something about - he's in his eighties, of course, he was a young man of eighteen when I engaged him and I was twenty-eight, so that made quite a bit of difference I was the boss and he was just a kid. Now he's eighty - -. But the fact is that I was developing the business and after we had stayed in an office on the corner of ________________.

LHA - In Rotterdam?

OPA - In Rotterdam. We looked for another office that would be more modern and more accommodating and we found a beautiful office on the ________________ where we moved to. Now, we engaged other people to sell machines, other salesmen and trained them and we had a service department and we got a service
man to service the machines -

LHA - You were the head of the Burroughs part of the operation?

OPA - There was only one operation - it was Burroughs - didn't have anything to do with any of the other agencies of ______________ it was entirely separate. I was just concentrating on Burroughs and so developed quite an organization, but since __Vermullen__ and his nephew, who was in the business with him didn't know a thing about Burroughs, really, we had constant friction and difficulties, because they didn't understand quite what I wanted, the had to acknowledge that I had accomplished something, but they didn't quite understand it. Now the young man, his nephew, old Mr. Mueller was married to the sister - the older sister of his nephew and the old man was a good business man, but he didn't know much about Burroughs machines. The young man was neither a business man nor a Burroughs man and so he didn't understand how the business had to be run; he tried to do something. For example, we had a lot of Burroughs duplex machines on hand that didn't sell very well of a certain kind - shuttle carriage. Well, for our customers, an ACT, which is an automatic cross tabulating carriage and returning then automatically would be more efficient and would offer more possibilities than a pure shuttle machine - shuttle
carriage. So, well the - Vermuellen said we had to sell the shuttle carriages that we had in stock. So we did our very best to convince our customers they should take the shuttle carriage. So we sold all the shuttle carriages that we had in stock; seventeen column machines, beautiful machine in itself.

LHA - Seventeen column?

OPA - Seventeen columns and a shuttle carriage and every position could show back and forth, but we also had machines that could tabulate from one column to the next and then return, which has more possibilities, of course, then just a shuttle carriage, although the shuttle carriage for some purposes may be preferable. At any rate we sold the machines that we had in stock because we had them in stock and they had to be moved. So then I came to Amsterdam one time for a meeting and I talked to the young Mr. Vermuellen and he said - yes they went very beautiful these machines - we ordered quite a number of them again - so I said - Oh, for heaven's sake - we did our darndest to get rid of these machines and now he's ordered more because they went so well. He didn't understand what was really cooking, what it was all about. He just looked at the figures and they were selling so good so ordered some more. So we had another stock of these machines that we didn't want to sell. Well, anyhow we got
friction all the time that this thing and that thing didn't work very well, didn't harmonize. They didn't understand what I really wanted to do. Moreover, Burroughs came out with a simplified accounting plan. It was a very efficient plan, so efficient that I still have my own bookkeeping on the basis of that simplified accounting plan. But the trouble was that a simplified accounting plan was, of course, designed for American conditions and American conditions are different than conditions in Holland. So I had to adapt the system to the conditions in Holland and in doing that I got stuck with a couple points that I couldn't solve, and so I had the desire to go to America to study it further over there and then so find solutions for the problems that I had and so I told Vermuellen that I think I would like to go over there and see what was going on and so I decided to go over there on my own at my own expense to see what the situation was and how I could solve the problems that I was struggling with and Vermuellen said that he would write them and because he didn't want to refuse and so we decided to go there. Now, Fred at that time was one year old and the question was are we going to leave him home with Oma Slater or should we take him along with us and we came to the conclusion - I said to Gertrude when we arrive by boat in New York and see the statue of liberty and we see the sky-
skyscrapers of the City of New York then you will really not be very much interested in the skyscrapers and the statue of liberty, you will just be worrying about how will Fred be doing, so let's take Fred along with us, so that's what we decided to do, we took Fred along with us and the three of us went on the boat and went to New York and visited our cousin of Gertrude, Mr. Slater, who at that time was the Mayor of the city of Patterson.

LHA - What relative was he to you?

OPA - He was a cousin

OMA - of my father

OPA - So we stayed in his home and we had, of course, trouble with the baby because sometimes you want to go out in the evening and the baby should be sleeping but the baby somehow sensed that we were going out and we would have to hold his hand to calm him down so he would fall asleep and then sometimes he wouldn't fall asleep and started to cry again and as soon as we thought well he was asleep and try to loosen his hand he started to cry again, so that was quite a job. Nevertheless we managed to do several things and visited the City of New York, visited some museums and other things and we proceeded to Detroit and there we stayed at the home of my friend Mr. Toke (?)
LHA - Excuse me, would you like to stop now? Do you want to stop now, Oma?

OPA - We are in the process of talking -

OMA - It is so late

OPA - It is not so late - it's only 9:30 - let's continue for a moment. Now our boat first went to Halifax and on account of the fog we didn't leave right away and at Halifax I wrote a postal card to the company in Detroit that my arrival would be delayed and I would be a little late. So from Halifax the ship went to New York and there we disembarked and we stayed with the family of Mr. Slater and then we took the train to Detroit and we stayed at the home of my friend Toke - Tope (?).

LHA - Oma what were your impressions? Opa had been there before, but you hadn't - what were your impressions coming into this country - sailing into New York and seeing your New Jersey relatives.

OMA - I don't know - I can't recall so very clearly anymore.

LHA - Do you remember visiting your cousins there?

OMA - I wanted to do what he wanted to do.

MSA - You remember staying at the house in Paterson?

OMA - Not very clearly anymore.
OPA - We stayed at their house

OMA - Whose house?

OPA - The Slater family. There was old Mr. Slater and he had two sons and a daughter and all three of them were not married. So they were at the home too. Sometimes we could go out and they would take care of the baby, but we always had to leave the house when the baby was in a position to go to sleep so he wouldn't be worrying about us.

OMA - I want to stop here

OPA - Wait a minute

OMA - Yes - wait a minute - you cannot go on and on and on -

OPA - I won't go on and on - we won't be here at one o'clock anymore

OMA - How long does it last?

LHA - Oh, just a few minutes - it's almost over

OPA - Then we arrived in Detroit and I arrived at the factory it appeared that they hadn't known about my coming. They hadn't been informed, in other words Vermuellen hadn't kept his promise that he was going to write to the factory about it. So, it was a good thing I had written him a postal card from Halifax because that proved that I came from Holland and was on the way to Detroit. So
they first had to wire Vermuellen in Amsterdam to see whether it was okay that I would be taken care of and Vermuellen, of course, then couldn't do anything else, but wire him that it was okay.

MSA - That's a real faux pas, isn't it?

OPA - So they thought if they didn't say anything I'd come there and be stuck; that happened too, but not very long, because after all they couldn't deny that I was in their service and still working for them. So we can leave it at that; is that the end of the tape?

LHA - We can stop any time you want to.

OPA - Let's stop here then - Oma's anxious to go home - then we'll go home.

LHA - You've just arrived in Detroit

OPA - Arrived in Detroit our trip at our own expense

LHA - Trip at your own expense - this is in what year?

OPA - That was in 1928 - Fred was born in 1927 and so that was in 1928 that we went to America.

LHA - That's during the boom years before the crash. Well, we'll stop now and pick up next time how things were when you arrived in Detroit. Good night.
LHA - Good evening dear listener, it has been a pause since our last taping, it's now Friday, October 26, 1984, we've enjoyed a beautiful fall day and I'm with Oma and Opa in their living room on 171 Ridgemont Road. When we left you before Oma, Opa and Fred had just arrived in Detroit in 1928. I don't know who you saw, or where you stayed, can you tell us a little about your Detroit visit?

OPA - When I arrived in Detroit, I enlisted for a course of study for sales managers of the Burroughs organization and followed that course to learn of all the latest machines they were making and the latest systems. What I was most interested in was the Burroughs Simplified Accounting Plan. I was quite enthusiastic about that plan, but I had problems in Holland because business is different there then it is in the United States. But in the course of my studies I found solutions for all the problems that I had and with a lot of enthusiasm I returned back to Holland to see what we could do about it. When I arrived the old Mr. Mueller - he was the dealer that was handling Burroughs in Holland came over and I didn't happen to be home, but he talked to my wife and claimed that I should come to Amsterdam to lead the whole organization.

LHA - Excuse me Opa, this was after you returned to Holland. It might be interesting to hear a little more about your Detroit visit. You were here a few
weeks were you?

OPA - No, I was here three months

LHA - And where was Burroughs located - there on Second Avenue where they are now?

OPA - They were on Second Avenue, but their quarters were entirely different from what they are today, because they have made World Headquarters of it now and it is a separate complex of buildings.

LHA - Do you remember the names of some of the people you knew then who were then running the company?

OPA - The sales manager was - I would have to think about it - maybe I can find it, but at any rate they were - everybody in the United States was enthusiastic about the Burroughs shares - Burroughs shares were going up day after day and we came to a point where I figured that the profit was not more than 1% of the value of the stock and I said to the people there, I said how could it be - this seems to me that the valuation of the stock is far too high because your income is no more than 1%. They said oh, don't you worry about it, because we have just started to scratch the surface, so there are going to be tremendous possibilities

So, when I arrived back in New York to take our boat to Holland again the
daughter of Mr. Slater, our cousin was married to a stock broker and I came to the conclusion I'd better buy some Burroughs stock because everybody was enthusiastic about it. So I bought Burroughs stock for the rest of the money that I had left over. At that time you could buy stock at 10% down payment, so if you could borrow 90% of the value of the stock, so I bought as much as I could with the margin that was possible and went aboard our ship.

LHA - Now you're on the boat

OPA - While I was traveling - the boat took about 10 days to cross the ocean and during that time the reports were that the stock had gone up all the time, so that they had gone up very nicely by the time I got home. When I got home old Mr. __________ was the dealer who was representing Burroughs in Holland came to our house and told my wife, I didn't happen to be home, that the organization had collapsed that really I had to come to Amsterdam to lead the whole country and take a broom and sweep it clean.

LHA - Why did it collapse?

OPA - It collapsed because they had nobody in authority, and because they were not - that they had old fashioned salesmen who were selling on the basis of well having a good talk with a customer and then selling them machines that they
kind of machines they wanted. But they were not sufficiently trained — they were not sufficiently sophisticated to know what kind of a machine would be best for the customer. So the organization, moreover some people had dropped out of the organization and they really didn't have anybody — they had an old salesman there in Amsterdam who was getting in trouble with his finances, he had borrowed he was handling the banks in Amsterdam, he had borrowed some money from bank friends, but he didn't dare go back there again because he wasn't able to pay it back and he more or less dropped out of the actual sales part of it, so that the organization come to a point where when somebody came to the showroom, there was really nobody to demonstrate a machine or to show them what the machines could do. So Mr. Mueller felt that I should come to Amsterdam and sweep the whole organization clean and start over again. So that sounded all very nice and I accepted the offer to come to Amsterdam and reorganize the organization. So we decided to rent our house because selling was difficult at that time and we moved to Amsterdam and rented the house on TheZuidertStationweg in Bloemendaal Bleumendahl where we were close to the station where the train could take us to Amsterdam in twenty minutes. So I moved to Amsterdam and they had a beautiful office on the Stadhouderskade that had been remodeled and together with
the building next to it which Mr. VanMuelen had bought and the conditions were for
the remodeling in Amsterdam the facade had to remain in its historic position.
So it was beautifully remodeled, but nevertheless it was an old house and so not
very convenient but we could manage all right. When I came to Amsterdam I came
to the conclusion that the first thing we had to do is educatee whatever organ-
ization we had. So we called all our salesmen to Amsterdam for a two-day con-
ference and in these two days I divulged to them all secrets of the Burroughs
Simplified Accounting Plan adapted to Dutch conditions. Some of the old salesme
couldn't grasp it, the younger men grasped it and the result was that the sales
started to grow. We took on more men and in the first year after I came to
Amsterdam our sales volume doubled and was a great success. But then -
LHA – Excuse me Opa, this wasn't working for Burroughs, this was working for
VanMuelen,

Opa – VanMuelen, who was a dealer and handled Burroughs for Holland. Then
VanMuelen had a cousin who – a younger man – who had gone to the Dutch East
Indies because VanMuelen also had the agency for the Dutch East Indies and he
had gone over there to reorganize their representation there. So after a year
he came back and he assumed the leadership again, although he was evidently
totally incapable to be a leader of Burroughs sales force. As a matter of fact, he hated going to customers and selling them. But he tried to do what he could, but it made my position kind of peculiar and kind of difficult, because—was I still the sales manager—or was I not the sales manager? I don't know whether that's important or not. So things came to conflicts and another manager we had who was appointed when the subsidiary was created and Mr. VanMuelen was appointed manager of the subsidiary—

LHA - Subsidiary of Burroughs

OPA - Yes — together with the manager of France

LHA - When did this happen — when Burroughs had bought out VanMuelen —?

OPA - Yes it was about in 1931 and they bought out VanMuelen and took over the agency because it became a subsidiary of Burroughs.

LHA - That's when you started being an employee of Burroughs again in 1931?

OPA - I became an employee of Burroughs again in 1931. So my position was more or less difficult, I didn't know what authority I had and young VanMuelen didn't really take any action or make it clear just what my responsibilities were and the result was that the spirit of the organization which had become wildly enthusiastic was dying down and getting nowhere. So sales were lagging and one
day Mr. Newy (?) who was the manager of France and also co-manager of Holland came to Amsterdam and asked me to come in to the private office of Mr. VanMuelen and he was trying to quiz me why sales were lagging so. Well, I had the choice of telling him the truth or just beating around the bush and I took the conclusion I'd better tell him exactly what I thought, so I told him that the spirit was wildly enthusiastic while I was sales manager but now the spirit had come down to zero and that young Mr. VanMuelen was the cause of it. So that was a very difficult situation, but I had a choice of saying what I felt should be said or just keeping my mouth shut and say nothing. The result, of course, was that Mr. VanMuelen became very angry with me and one Saturday he waited in his office until all the salesmen had gone and finally when it became rather late he called me in and he told me I was fired. So I was - it was like getting hit on the head with a stick, but on the other hand, it could be expected, because I was a danger to him that was pretty clear. So I was fired and then I contacted Mr. Newy (?) because he was the cause really that I was fired by asking these questions and he told me well he couldn't do anything for the moment but he would see. So he sometime later he asked me to make a report because he was going to the United States to confer with the management there. So I wrote a
report and sent it to Mr. Newy and he took it with him to Detroit and discussed
it with the management there and came back and then he one time -
LHA - So we took the report to the States, we have to go back to that point.

OPA - Sometime later he returned and called me from the Carlton Hotel where he was staying and asked me to come over and he told me that I probably could get another job with Burroughs in Amsterdam as a salesman and I said well, that is really not very desirable, because it is clear that if I am a salesman under Mr. Vermeulen I can't accomplish anything - it would be a disaster. So he says well try I just fired him, so that made a difference. I didn't want to go into the matter of - through management - who was going to be the new Newey (Burroughs manager in Paris) manager, but Mr. Newey (?) told me that they had an Englishman in Great Britain of the organization with a high position and they were thinking of appointing him as manager in Holland. I didn't try even to make him see that I could be a good manager, because I had been manager already with great success, because I didn't want to create the impression that I would try to get rid of Mr. Vermeulen to go sit in his chair - that wasn't the purpose. The idea was that Vermeulen was totally incapable of leading the organization and was not a very good manager for the organization. So, I didn't go any further into the matter, so after a while Mr. Horrocks became the manager and arrived in Amsterdam and then he invited me to come over and discuss with me what kind of position I was
going to have in Amsterdam. That worked out reasonably well; we worked to-
gather for quite some time - a number of years and the idea evidently was that

Mr. O'rex (Alex or something ex) was going to stay in Amsterdam for a few years
and then be promoted to manager in Berlin for Germany, but the German situation
had become deteriorated because Hitler had become the dictator and he was
threatening all the other countries and moreover, American organizations in
Germany were not very much in favor, so the idea of sending Mr. O'rex (??) to Germany
didn't work out at all, so he stayed in Holland for seven years and after seven
years he felt that the situation became not very safe on the continent and he
preferred to go back to England. So he asked for a transfer back to Great
Britain and that transfer was granted and then I was made manager and Mr. Stewart
foreign
who was the sales manager in Detroit sent me a Xxxxxxx letter telling me all the
duties that the manager had.

LHA - This was in 1938?

OPA - This was about 1938 - yes, and so I then became the manager of the
Burroughs organization in Holland. Now, as I said before, I think, - I was in
the first world war in the American army with the army of occupation after the
armistice at Luxemburg, I got a furlough for a couple of weeks to Belgium and
took advantage of occasion to visit our Burroughs office in Brussels. The office was managed by an Englishman and when the Germans came he fled back to England. So the organization was without leadership and in a very dilapidated and disorganized condition and I came to the conclusion that if I should ever become a manager anywhere and I should be in a position where I could stay with the people that I was responsible for - if they could suffer, I could suffer. So I decided I'd better give up my American citizenship and become a Dutch National again. So we were naturalized as Dutch citizens again and I gave up my American citizenship, so I could stay no matter what the conditions would be. Well it worked out all right. When the invasion came - it came, of course, unexpectedly although the Dutch army had some idea as to what was going to happen, because when I went to Rotterdam before the invasion I found that the Dutch army was placing trucks in the center of a very wide six lane highway between Delft and Rotterdam and when I came back in the evening from Rotterdam where I visited our branch office, the army was busy changing the trucks they had placed in the middle of the road by large concrete sewer pieces, so an airplane wouldn't be able to land in the middle of the road. Fact is, after the armistice - or the end of the fighting in Holland, I went again to Rotterdam in my car and I saw
quite a number of German airplanes lying in the ditch; they had orders to land on that road and evidently the obstructions made it impossible for them to land there properly, so they went into the ditch and couldn’t get out. So Germany lost quite a few airplanes in their invasion of Holland, and after all they evidently had not too many of them and they were unable to continue attacking anyone after they conquered Western Europe. The British peacenik, Mr. Chamberlain, of course, had tried to bring peace to his nation by working together with Hitler and making some kind of an agreement with him; appeasement you might call it. But the appeasement didn’t bring peace – it made the basis for another war – that’s what it amounted to and the result was – war was unavoidable. When it came – then Chamberlain was replaced by Churchill, who really was a man who was a realist and he knew it was coming. So, he prepared to receive the Germans when they should come. They had lost so many planes in conquering Western Europe they were unable to attack anyone at that moment and so then Churchill had an opportunity to prepare for a warm reception. There were river boats that were prepared at one of the islands in Zealand (?) to be equipped with a high bow so they could stand the sea but evidently they were intended to go to England to conquer the country. So they
were loaded fast when they were finished - they were loaded with German soldiers and left but they never came back and nobody knows what happened to them. Fact is, that after the invasion - of course, the invasion happened during a four day holiday and so during that time nobody was in their office, but when it was over I took my car and drove to Amsterdam to see what the situation would be. On the way over I saw a big line of trucks with German soldiers that were moving into the interior of Holland to show their might but the fact was those soldiers were sound asleep on their seats because they were exhausted just like the Dutch soldiers were exhausted after four days and nights fighting. The organization, of course, was glad to see me appear, they were afraid that I might have fled to England too, but there was no reason why I should do that. I came back and I was going to run the show. Fact is, we didn't get any machines, parts, paper, ribbons, or anything from Holland or America, all connections were cut there were no connections whatsoever, neither with England, nor America and so we had to be on our own and decide what we were going to do.

LHA - After the invasion you couldn't telephone or write or anything.

OPA - Couldn't do anything - we were totally on our own. We had to determine
just how we were going to manage the business and what we were going to do.

It was pretty clear we were not going to take any more orders for machines to be delivered from the factory - the factory couldn't deliver anything anymore to us. We only got a few machines that had been unloaded at Antwerp before the war started, before the invasion started and they were delivered to us and everything else tried to continue normally after the fighting was over in Holland. Of course, at first, as soon as possible, although there were with the destruction of Rotterdam quite a few banks and concerns that had lost everything. We had one customer who had a calculating machine that wasn't working right and that machine was in our office in our work shop in Rotterdam to be repaired and we had given him one of our machines to use in the meantime and as it turned out, this customer's premises were totally destroyed and the machine we had given him was also destroyed and his machine was still in our workshop and properly repaired and was returned to him and he was glad to get that machine because he had lost everything he had. Fact was, the concerns in Rotterdam were totally unprepared for such a calamity that they all had many trouble reconstructing their position, because of them didn't know what they were owing or what their were owning or much they had coming from customers -
they were depending on the honesty of customers to tell them how much they had to pay, but gradually, of course, people were waking up to the reality of the situation. I know when I went to Rotterdam the day after the fighting stopped and then I found there quite a few German planes in the ditch that hadn't been able to get up and I parked my car by my parents-in-law's house and walked downtown and got into the white house (?) and found our building entirely intact. The buildings around it were all destroyed and burned, but evidently the low flying planes that were dropping incendiary bombs were flying too low to hurt our building and moreover the wind was away from the building so the flames didn't touch it. All the other buildings around it were destroyed but our building was still standing and our office was entirely intact. We had no damage, except the one machine that was loaned to a customer and was destroyed.

OHA - office personnel

OPA - The office personnel had survived they hadn't been in the office during the fighting because it was a holiday.

LHA - How many personnel did you have then?

OPA - In Rotterdam?
LHA - In both cities.

OPA - Oh, I wouldn't be able to say offhand, I would have to go back and count them, but of course, in Rotterdam we had maybe half a dozen men or so and then had a girl for the office. They all came back to work. An, of course, we had a whole organization in Amsterdam and other parts of the country and so the idea was - how are we going to keep this organization going - and how are we going to finance the while thing when we have nothing to sell? - That was the problem. Well, the first thing we had to do was to, of course, there were orders given to act as though everything was normal, but we were not allowed had to be to buy more than we needed and and the old prices were maintained, so we had to sell our machines at the rate of exchange before the war, which was about $1.80 = $1.00 US.

a gilder and 80¢ for the dollar; right now the rate of exchange is $3.50 for 3.50 = $1.00
the dollar - three guilders and 50¢ for the dollar. At that time it was a gilder and 80¢ for the dollar. So, the Germans, of course, were convinced they were going to win the war and after the war was over the dollar wouldn't be worth that much, but I wasn't so convinced that was going to happen. Considering my experience in the first world war, it might take a little while I felt, but America was a tremendous country with tremendous power and once they get going
they couldn't be stopped and that very well the rate of exchange would be very favorable for Holland after the war. So, I really didn't want to sell anything at the pre-war prices. But, of course, to start with we couldn't help but help some of our customers who had lost everything, like the Rotterdam's bank, who had lost all their machines, so they came into the office and we sold them some machines at pre-war prices that we had in stock and of course, we had considerable stock and all our machines were paid for through the company as soon as they were sold, but if they were not sold they were on consignment, so we owed the company for all the machines we had in stock. So we sold some of the machines and then after a while I came to the conclusion - well, now the first thing I wanted to do is to stop all sales, because I wanted to preserve all our machines in stock for our customers - a lot of them who were bombed out. All the measures I took were logical and could be defended, but they were ultimately for the purpose of preventing any great damage to our company and to ourselves. We came to the conclusion that we better not sell any more machines than we have to, better keep them until the end of the war and then see what the rate of exchange would be before we sold any. But you couldn't help sell some of them but we therefore owed the company a considerable amount of money and then I had
a friend who was working for the American Express and he said well if you want to buy dollars, we may be able to make a transaction, because we need gilders, we don't have enough money to pay the salaries of our employees and - because all connections with the home office of American Express were cut off so the home office couldn't send him any money and they couldn't get any money from outside the occupied territory. So we started negotiations and a representative of American Express in Switzerland, which was a neutral country, came over to discuss the matter with us and we finally came to the conclusion as to what we wanted to do. Then we wanted to take 90,000 gilders and pay it to the American Express so they could fulfill their obligations and they would have their company in America pay to the Burroughs $50,000. But that wasn't so very easy because you needed a number of permits. Now the Germans were favorably inclined because they wanted to please the Americans because they wanted to keep America out of the war, but still you had to get a number of permits before you could do a thing like that and the trouble was that all these permits were limited. You had to have a permit from the Netherlands Bank, you had to have a permit from the Germans, you had to have a permit from the organization of office machines and so on, and they were all dated and one permit would expire
the other one wouldn't be in yet. That was a very difficult situation, but we finally succeeded in getting for a moment all the permits that we needed.

So we were all set and I went to Mr. Young the President of the American Express in Holland and I said well here I have a check here for 90,000 guilders so here it is - he hesitated - take it - because he didn't know whether it was a good deal or not, but after all he needed the money I finally stopped arguing and deposited the check on his desk and said good-bye and walked out. Evidently he cashed it and the money was paid to Burroughs in the United States, as far as I know - I never got any information when the war was over, so evidently it was settled.

LHA - Couldn't you find out after the war if they got the $50,000?

OPA - They never told me specifically that they got it. It was, of course, a few years later before the war was over - the war lasted five years. So things change in the meantime. Anyhow, we never were told that we had to pay it, so evidently they were paid for it and Mr. Young cashed the check, so they were taken care of and we were taken care of. So we had no worries anymore about the machines that we had already sold, but we did have to worry about the machines that we still had in stock and that we didn't really want to sell
because we didn't know how much they would cost us and, of course, the regulations were that you had to sell normally to everybody who came in. You saw a lot German officers in stores going to buy all kinds of things which they couldn't buy in Germany anymore. They thought Holland was a country of wealth and well supplied that they could really find all kinds of things in the stores in Holland. I've seen officers in one of the stores of handbags and leather goods standing there in front of the counter insisting that the bag that he wanted should be behind the counters somewhere and the girls said well we don't have that kind of a bag, so they were very insistent to buy the things that they wanted because they were suspecting that the sales people didn't want to sell to them. The fact is that Holland was well stocked - the Germans came to what you might call a land of wealth. I sat one time in a first class coach in a train and in came/a German soldier and then came in and sat down/on one bench and then another German soldier walked in and sat down on the other bench and one soldier said to the other - I have eaten so wonderfully today and the other one said - I have eaten twice wonderfully today. They had a good meal which they hadn't seen for a long time, evidently. Well it was pretty clear that our good situation wasn't going to last very long. Business was supposed to be transacted normally, but things were not normal, but not everybody recognized it.
I remember passing by a store where they had kitchen machines - what was the machine that we gave you - the kitchen machine - you remember what the name of it was? Hamilton Beach mixer

H.A. I don't remember

OPA - Well we had a kitchen machine that you can, with a couple bowls, you can mix all kinds of things with it. Anyhow, that store has a lot of these kitchen machines in the show window and I was surprised. So I went inside and they were willing to come to Bleumendahl (?) all the way and demonstrate that machine and if necessary give it a trial. I thought these fellows are crazy - they don't understand what the situation in the world is - they probably can't buy that machine back at the price they get for it when the war is over. But at any rate they didn't understand it and they came over and demonstrated the machine and I bought one. But some months later I passed by that same store I didn't see any more machines in the show window and I went in and asked what happened to your machines? They said a German officer came in and he bought the whole stock off us. So he probably sold them on the black market - they could make good profit on that. Anyhow, the situation had to be recognized as to what it really was and it had to be recognized that we shouldn't sell any more machines
that did not necessarily have to be sold.

LHA - Were you still keeping your machines on display in your office?

OPA - No we didn't display anything, we just kept our stock, but we didn't display them. Now, what I said finally, we had to reserve all our machines for taking off parts to repair the machines in existence. Because what is more important - that we sell a few machines - or we keep the thousands of machines already in Holland in good shape so people can use them - it's more important that they're kept in good shape - we have to keep our new machines in order to take off parts for the existing machines - that's right? You can't really say anything about it - it's a logical conclusion. So, I said we shouldn't sell any more machines - we can only sell second hand machines. Well we had a man from Ford Motor Company; that factory was making half track cars that were to be used in the desert in Africa and he wanted a new calculator machine. I said we have no new calculator machines. He said well I'll go to the central office in Hague and ask them why you have no new calculator machines. I said no we have no new calculator machines - only second hand machines. Thing is you shouldn't be scared to death when somebody like that is talking up to you - I told him well you go to the Hague and find out. He went to the Hague and came back and he sai
yes, they said you have only second hand machines, because I told them that was the situation.

LHA - That Ford factory would have been making then half tracks for the German army.

OPA - Well, everybody had to work for the German army. I mean they had no choice. Ford didn’t do it, they just took all the factories and they had to make for Germany, so they had nothing to say about it. We had to do too what they told us. Then after a while, of course, it took another six months before we got a verwaltor or custodian. The German engineer who came walking in the office while I wasn’t there - he told the office manager - Mr. Slater. I’m going to take my office here right in the entrance of the building so we can see who’s going in and out and he had the most beautiful office of the three of us - he was also custodian of IBM and of National Cash and so he had the three companies to take care of so he was going to sit in the office - he was going to take away my authority to sign checks, take money out of the bank and he was the boss. Well, that was all very nice, so Slater called me by phone and said that was the case and I said well I’ll be over tomorrow morning. So the next day I went to the office.

LHA - Where were you then?
OPA - I was not in the office at the time that this man came - whether I was in Bloemendaal or somewhere else - I don't know - probably traveling here or there. So, I was the office the next day and I took notice that this man was Mr. Frühaut of course, the custodian - he was a real German and I talked German to him.
I would be just as proud of Dutch as he was of German and talk Dutch, but I didn't want to do that because I wanted to accomplish something and then there's no use in letting your feelings dominate your actions. You should be unafraid to do the things that you feel you ought to do and do it in such a way that you have a good alibi why you do it and you go ahead and that's what my policy was. So when the custodian - the German custodian took over, well then we had to face the situation, but he left the management of the everyday work pretty well to me and I told our sales organization that they should continue the way we were but only sell second hand machines. We had quite a number of second hand machines in stock which we could sell and after a while I came to the conclusion that, of course, if we sold our second hand machines then we had nothing more to sell. So I made the agreement - arrangement with the salesmen that no second hand machine should be sold unless another machine is traded in because we have to stay in business. Then when several salesmen could sell a machine and trade in one or two other machines, I took the most favorable case where they could trade in two machines and then we made a transaction. So sometimes a customer would have a machine that he had no use for but needed really another machine, that he could use to better advantage and so in those cases the customer would be able to buy that second hand machine and trade in some other
machines. Our workshop could restore the older machines in good shape with the aid of all the parts we had in stock and if necessary, take parts out of new machines and they could do the things that had to be done.

LHA - Your new machines - you didn't really take them all apart and put them in parts bins - you just didn't tell anybody you had them.

OPA - That's right. They were all registered in the Hague with the Office of Office Machines, but they agreed that we should reserve our machines for customers by taking the parts out to keep the other machines going.

LHA - The Germans didn't agree to this, did they?

OPA - The Germans didn't agree or disagree - they didn't know anything about it probably. You see the Germans also had too many other things to worry about. They couldn't go to every detail. I realized that and took advantage of it.

LHA - How could you keep meeting a payroll and pay all your employees during this time?

OPA - Well we made money in our service department and sometimes in certain cases the service department the service men were supposed to visit the customer to repair his machine or to clean it and see if it needed any new parts, so we would sometimes - the service man could not reach him, so we made arrangements that even if the salesman or service man hadn't shown up for an inspection
of the machine, we were responsible for the good operation of the machines, so they had to pay the full price anyway. So we collected money from customers for service and we collected money from customers for machines that were sold and we should during all the five years we never missed a payroll - we always had money enough to meet the payroll. The situation sometimes became a little precarious, but in general we managed to meet all our obligations and do the things that had to be done. One time a German officer came into the office and the German custodian happened to be present and, of course, the German custodian was very kindly disposed toward the German military officer and the German military officer proclaimed that he wanted all the typewriters we had in stock. Well, when I came to the office I was told the situation - we had to prepare them all and see that they were in good shape and deliver them to this officer. Well, I went to the Hague to the Office of Office Machines and I found that the German head of the organization had proclaimed that an officer could buy second hand machines for his outfit, but couldn't take new machines, they had to be reserved for the German army and the official command. So I went back to Amsterdam and I said to our office manager that's the rule and that we have to comply with it. We should be obeying the instructions of the German commander,
shouldn't we? So we had only two typewriters that were second hand and the rest were new. So we told the custodian that we could deliver the two machines and the rest he wouldn't be able to get, because they had to be reserved for the German army and not for the individual's use. Well they had to comply with it of course, if you get an order you have to comply with the order don't you, so that's what it is. Then we got an order that the two machines had to be made in good shape and so on - in so many times they had to be delivered, otherwise some terrible things were going to happen. Well, we were used to that and we didn't bother very much with it and we prepared the two machines and they were delivered. Second hand machines we had to sell them at the second hand price. So that's it - that was the end of it. So that officer got these two machines and that's all we lost. So we had to cope with a lot of situations a lot of difficulties and one time our salesman in Br[unsh[., Mr. Nippe] he said why don't you have a sales meeting - we had a sales meeting occasionally then we had a good lunch and I had bought some good cigars in the beginning of the war, so we could offer them a cigar after the lunch, which was very nice because cigars were hardly available anymore after awhile and I bought cigars till they were 18 good cents apiece, then I thought it was getting too expensive
so I didn't buy them anymore - I had enough in stock, so I could offer a cigar to everyone of the salesmen at our sales meeting luncheon. So Mr. Snippe said why not have a meeting at our home sometime, because near us they are building something tremendous I didn't know what it was going to be, but that's a tremendous that they are going to build. So I said all right let's do that. So the trains were still running then and we went by train to Oss and to Vught and we visited our

LHA - To where

OPA -- to Vught in Zuid Brabant

LHA - How do you spell it?

OPA - Vught - So there was a forest nearby and in this forest they were building something. So we had our meeting in the home of Mr. Snippe and we discussed the various problems and things that they had and the customers that they had to serve and then after a while we were going back to the nearest city to take the train; we were walking over - it was a nice walk - we were called up by a man on a bicycle and Snippe said that this fellow is a Nazi he evidently went ahead of us to report to the German command that there were some fellows fussing around that camp and that was suspicious. So when we came
into the city we found the German soldier stopping us and we had to go to the German command, so we went to the German Command and they investigated all our satchels, portfolios to see if there was any forbidden material in there and happily none of us had any forbidden material or any propaganda against the Germans with them and so they took us each separately and this German said (in German language) That means what are you doing in the (also in German) Jewish camp? They were building a big camp there to put in the Jews.

The Jews had to report there to be put in that camp and we didn't know that. We just saw that they were making a lot of fences there and things and in the dark we didn't know what it was for. We had no idea, but this German told us it was for the Jews, so I said we didn't even know there was a Jewish camp here.

We just came here to have a meeting and then we walked back to the city to take the train home. So we told them what we were there for, so they called Amsterdam to talk to Walter, the custodian and they found everything was okay, we were with Burroughs and we had a meeting and so the Germans came to the conclusion it was a false alarm so we were released and we went to the station.

LHA - I'm surprised the custodian would let you all go off someplace to have a meeting without him being with you.
OPA - He had no time to do that - he had to check on three different big companies, so he had no time to go with us to a sales meeting. He just had to stay in the office and do his business. He didn't interfere with the daily management of the business. That was my task. So he didn't bother with it. When they asked whether we were employed by Burroughs, well he had to say yes. So found that everything was in order and couldn't find anything that was wrong and they let us go.

LHA - Were there any Nazi sympathizers in your company in Burroughs that you were aware of?

OPA - No, not generally. But we came to the conclusion that that wasn't a very nice experience and some fellows were a little bit white in the face from scare and we were just hoping that the time would come quickly to get us out of there. So, nevertheless the train came and we went home and nothing further happened. But we came to the conclusion that we should really when the situation was getting still worse, but we did manage to keep the business going, we managed to have our salesmen do certain jobs, then at a certain moment the custodian said - we really don't need any salesmen because we haven't got much to sell that they could be sent to Germany and so we immediately
started a course of study for all our salesmen how to repair small machines -
adding machines and we gave them all a screwdriver and a few tools and we said
you go to repair machines. Then, when they sold a machine we gave very little
for the trade in machines and we sold the machines for a certain percentage of
the price of new machines and we, of course, agreed that we were going to re-
pair these machines whenever they would breakdown or anything. So the customer
had a good deal and we had a good deal. So our gross profit on these second
hand machines was pretty large and so that enabled us to keep the business going
So our salesmen, of course, were credited for their sales and then debited for
the money they took up and then we finally, since we selected a man who had the
most favorable transaction for a certain machine, we came to the conclusion
we'll credit the other salesmen that could have sold it, but didn't get the
order - didn't get the machine to sell - they would be credited for the amount
of commission that would otherwise have been entitled to. So in that way we
succeeded in keeping every man's account in good order and have them all have
an income and get rid of our _______ transaction good business and then later
as I say, they went to service small machines, so we kept all our salesmen to
do service work and we kept our organization going all the time, even when
things were getting pretty serious and pretty difficult. So we managed to do a lot of things. Now, of course, things got worse for the Germans, especially when the invasion started – the Allied invasion in Normandy and I had a radio in a secret place and at a certain moment all electricity was cut off too, they didn't have any fuel so they couldn't furnish any electricity. We had no gas, no electricity we had nothing - no heat. I still had a battery for my car that provided a little bicycle glow that we put in our lamp to give a little light at night. But, of course, all the windows had to be blackened with black curtains so no light would shine out and we couldn't do very much in the evening, but we managed to keep going and keep our organization going. We kept everybody paid on time and kept the whole business in shape and kept our machines and our positions.

LHA - You must have had electricity in Amsterdam, though.

OPA - We did have electricity at the beginning but after some years and especially after the invasion, the invasion started in Normandy and got as far as the Rhine and they couldn't get across the Rhine, they had air attacks the Allies with airplanes and what do you call them - the airplanes without motors that were pulled by another airplane and they dropped about 10,000 men across
the river, but these 10,000 men all were either killed or taken prisoner or rowed back across the river to their own side, because they couldn't hold it against the Germans - the Germans were still strong enough to hold them and the result was that we went through a terrible winter that we never thought was going to be that bad. We stayed in our house and at a certain time we were told that everybody had to be evacuated because they were afraid of invasion and that our position in Bloemendahl would be dangerous. So for our safety we had to evacuate. Well, that was the situation and everybody was leaving their house to go to some other place where they could be safer, but I didn't feel that I wanted to do that and the doctor only had a telephone at that time - that was before the invasion and somebody was calling there at the doctor's office to ask for the billet (?) that he was supposed to be assigned to and the city wasn't able to assign everybody to another billet, so they had to wait, so I thought well, if they are not so much in a hurry that we don't have to be in a hurry either, because at first the command was for a certain date everybody had to be evacuated. So we decided we were going to stay right where we are.

Jan Droste

We already made arrangements with Mr. Droster (?) and Mrs. Droste to be evacuated to their house. They were willing to have us in their house, but I said
I'd like to accept your kind offer and go to your house, but change our address but on one condition that we stay at our house. So we stayed in our house and we didn't regret it because that was really wonderful.\(^9\) Well – one time we saw German soldiers go through the street and they had a man with them they had arrested and women going around there crying, weeping and so on. We said well what's going to happen, so we had at that time Fred and Chris and we had Lyle Levi in the house and we were very anxious as to what was going to happen and at one time we saw German soldiers go to the house next to us, it was empty and we had locked our gate with strong bolts from Burroughs cases that were very strong; you couldn't open the gate by any means. Then Fred had warned us that there were German soldiers walking there and he lived on the top floor and he could see through the curtain that they were doing something. So, we didn't know that it was all about, whether they were checking whether we were still in the house or not, but we wanted to be very quiet. So we told the girl the servant girl we had don't make any fire, don't let any smoke come out of the chimney, we have to be very, very, extremely careful. So we saw the German soldiers go into the house next to us and he evidently found nobody there then he passed our house, he couldn't open the gate and looked around curtains were
all closed, evidently there was nobody there, so he walked past. But a little
before that Fred's alarm went off and he was scared stiff - he put the alarm
under the blankets because he was afraid that they would hear, but of course,
the windows were closed and they didn't hear. At any rate, then they went to
up the driveway
the other houses on the other side and they looked at our house from there but
found no signs of life at all, so they found the house was evacuated and so
they went on. But they were really doing was not to check whether you were stil
in the house, they were going to check for any young men in there that had to be
arrested and taken to Germany to work for the German industry, because no young
man above 17 years old or so were allowed to stay there. They were afraid they
would help the Allies if they should land on the Dutch coast. So that was some-
thing that we had to cope with. So we were scared stiff occasionally, but we
succeeded by all kinds of means by being very, very, extremely careful and very,
very clever and thinking of everything that could happen, we succeeded in sur-
viving.

LHA - You couldn't still go to the office, could you?

OPA - After that winter I went to the office occasionally by bicycle. So I -

LHA - You had to sneak out of your neighborhood because you weren't supposed to
live there.

OPA - I wasn't supposed to live there, but all the houses were evacuated and nobody saw me when I came out of the house. As a matter of fact, one time there was a policeman - some kind of a policeman who was checking and I was outside. He came to our gate and the gate was locked - he couldn't get in - so he said well there's nobody there I guess and I said you can be sure there's nobody there. So he went on. You had to be very careful what you were going to say and what you were going to do and see that they didn't catch you. You had to depend a little bit on the situation with the Germans - they were overburdened with tremendous tasks that they couldn't perform - they were never meant to perform.

Somebody here asked Opa (don't recognize the voice) - Can you remember if the ______ were there?

OPA - The camp was evacuated - they went to some other place. Everybody went to some other place and they blamed us for staying there, but well they could have done that too, if they wanted to. But if everybody stayed there that would have been, of course, a calamity, because they would have noticed it.

LHA - Why did they blame you for staying there?
OPA - Well, because some people were jealous because we stayed there. I mean the Germans didn't and the authorities didn't, but some of the neighbors did. They said well you stayed in your house, you succeeded in doing it, but even the people were all evacuating and everybody was moving and everybody had carts or whatever they had to move things, because it wasn't very easy to move - there was a man with a lean horse and a cart and he walked around to see if anybody wanted to evacuate - he wanted to make some money and so he saw us walking he said aren't you evacuating? We didn't answer - he said well I'll report you to the Germans. I said go ahead report us to the Germans, but the Germans had something else to do - they had to wage a war, rather than check on everybody who's in their house. So we realized that a lot of things could happen we were lucky too, we had a certain amount of luck with us but we also had a lot of calculation of what we were doing. Finally, Walter was called up - he was kind of peevish, because he was an artillery officer and he was called up for actual military service, so then we got a very old man who became our new custodian and he was going to run the place, but he was easier than the younger man was and he managed us until the invasion came and then there was a danger the Allies would be there in a hurry and what was he going to do. So he had
better get back to Germany. So he gave money enough for two payrolls and he departed for Germany. But I had no authority to sign checks and it took six more months before we were really liberated. So what we had to do is to ask our salesmen if they had sold a machine to be paid in cash, not transfer it to the bank, because we couldn't take a cent out of the bank. The bank wouldn't give us a cent and the postal authorities wouldn't give us a cent.

LHA - The who?

OPA - The postal financial service. They had a postal financial service where you could open an account and then you could transfer money from your account to somebody else's account and they would post it, but I sometimes said well, if the bankers have to save the country, it will never be saved, because bankers don't want to take a moment of risk. They wouldn't give me a cent. I was not supposed to sign a check, so I couldn't get any money out of the bank so we had to be sure that no more money got into the bank - that was all. So anything that we had coming from customers we requested the salesmen and service men to collect in cash and not checks and not in deposits. So we collected sufficient cash to be able to meet our payroll during that difficult period and we got to a point where we took all our small machines and took parts - I told
Bart, he was a good chief of the service and we first had a man by the name of Matyson (?) and he could see the mistake - the fault of a man who doesn't know the language and talks only English is that he judges people by the way they talk English - you judge people by the way they talk and if you talked English and you worked for people who talk another language then the man among those people --
LHA - Now it's Saturday afternoon - Opa and I are sitting in their Florida room on a beautiful fall afternoon and will continue with the changes at Burroughs:

OPA - When Mr. _____ was still in charge of our organization before the war the service manager quit and we had to appoint another one. There were two men eligible for that position - one was a man who could talk very well - he talked English very well, but he was a ________ mechanic; the other man was a ________ mechanic, but he was less educated - his English was poor. It was natural that the English service manager from London who came over and Mr. _______ both decided that this Mr. Tyson would be the proper man to fill the position (the one who talked so well). So what kind of a man he was is shown by the fact that at one time we had a customer in the ________ a savings bank, who had trouble with a machine - his bookkeeping machine and Mr. Tyson was supposed to fix it cannot solve the problem and the service manager is supposed to come and see what the matter is and solve it - problems have to be solved. So Mr. Tyson went over and came back and when he came back I asked him "Did you fix it?" he said "Yes, I fixed it.", I said "What did you do?", he said "Well, I told them that I had
to go on my vacation for two weeks and when I come back I'll fix it." - and they were satisfied with that and that's the kind of fixing he did. On the other hand, Mr. Bart, the other man was a very capable man and solved all problems that came to him. As a matter of fact, his reputation with the customers was such that they were told that Mr. Bart was going to come over to look at it, they were already satisfied, because they knew it was going to be solved. So, these two men were, of course, having friction with each other and during the war time we had some troubles. So, Mr. Tyson was the only one who, of our organization, went himself to our German custodian to get some favors. He told him that I had nothing to say about the service department. The service department, according to Burroughs' rules, was a very independent manager, so the German custodian should ordain that I should have nothing to do with the work of Mr. Tyson. So, the German custodian, what's his name -- --, he called me in and asked me what the situation was and I feel this logic to see that, after all, when a customer is entirely dissatisfied the ultimate person he comes to is the manager of the organization, that's where the buck stops and so the manager of the organization has the final responsibility for the whole organization and not only for part of it.
so our custodian saw that was really logical and so Mr. Tyson didn't get anywhere. Mr. Tyson did go to customers during the war when food became scarce and he didn't really go to serve the customer, but gave them some food or something and the, for instance, we had a customer who was making preserves and Mr. Tyson made it a point to visit that firm quite a few times, with the idea they probably would give him some bottles of preserves. So, that went on for a little while and then Mr. Tyson decided that he was going into business for himself, because he saw he wasn't getting anywhere and so he was trying to get the customers away from us and start a service department of his own. Well, I saw this coming and I told Mr. Bart to go and visit the customers that he might influence and tell them what the situation really is.

LHA - Excuse me, Matyson - he was a German?

OPA - Matyson was our service manager.

LHA - Oh, he was your service manager, not -

OPA - Yes - the German custodian was, you remember, what's his name - well it doesn't make any difference.

LHA - Is this the young one or the old one that eventually came?

OPA - The young one. So, Matyson quit and I appointed Mr. Barnes, who was
the other man to become the manager. First, we had arranged that Matyson was going to visit customers, as long as he was staying outside he couldn't do very much harm and then Barnes was manager over the work shop where we were storing machines. So, when Matyson quit, then the problem was solved and Mr. Barnes was ready to show he was a very efficient and good man. The overseer's name was Mr. Frühauft, he was artillery officer and later in the war he was called up for actual battle service, which he didn't like very much but he had to go. Well, -

LHA - At what point in the war was he called - do you remember?

OPA - Pretty well toward the last winter.

LHA - Were most of your customers toward that last winter were they still staying in business - most of the people you sold machines to?

OPA - They were staying in business and they had transactions. A lot of them were serving at concerns or individual customers and they were making food and other things and, of course, the Germans bought all the stuff and they had to help furnishing it.

LHA - Did only the American companies have German overseers? Or did the Dutch companies have the same?
OPA - The American Companies had German overseers.

LHA - A Dutch company wouldn't necessarily have a German overseer.

OPA - No. The German overseers were appointed for all the American companies.

LHA - During this war period were you recording a profit in your business?

OPA - We were making a profit every year.

LHA - And what happened to the profit?

OPA - The profit stayed in the business and accumulated until the end of the war.

LHA - You didn't have to, but you must have been paying taxes but you made no distribution of profit - you just accumulated it.

OPA - No, there was no distribution of profit.

LHA - What sort of tax structure were you under then - do you remember?

OPA - How do you mean?

LHA - Corporation income tax structure.

OPA - Corporation income tax structure and that was like the ________

At the beginning of the war the Germans decreed that you could start a pension fund for your employees and if you started a pension fund you could deduct a considerable amount from your taxes for that year. The first year
we made quite a bit of profit, because we had machines to deliver and which
had arrived just before the war and so, we made quite a bit of profit, after
all the Germans invaded Holland on the 10th of May and before that we also
had done pretty good business. So, at the end of the year we had quite a bit
of profit and a considerable portion of that could be used to start a pension
fund and pay for the years for which we had paid the premium.

LHA - Under the German control, when you were selling machines were you sell-
ing machines that the Burroughs Corporation in Detroit owned; were you showing
on your books an accounts payable to Burroughs for the value of the machines
they shipped to you on consignment?

OPA - Yes

LHA - That was being reflected in your books?

OPA - It was being reflected in the books. We continued our same system of
bookkeeping and the amount of the profit stayed in the business. I didn't
feel that it would be wise to start such a pension system under the circum-
stances. In the first place, I didn't want to predetermine the kind of pen-
sion fund that you would have that was up to our company to do, but mainly,
I felt that we were in a terrible situation and the primary purpose should
be to survive and let the future take care of itself and we didn't want to burden our men or the company with the premium that would have to be paid year after year.

LHA - Who would the premium have been paid to, if you had gone into the pension plan then?

OPA - It would have been paid to the insurance company that would handle your pension plan.

LHA - Would that be a German insurance company?

OPA - It would be a Dutch company.

LHA - I presume the Germans encouraged this because it would, in essence, take money out of circulation; it would be an enforced saving, so couldn't be used for consumers' goods.

OPA - Yes, that's one thing, but they also tried to show that they were for the working man and they tried to get the favor of the people. Fact is, that Hitler hoped that when he took the Dutch army prisoner that they would voluntarily help him to win the war, but nobody did. So, after some months after they were liberated, they were generous and liberated all the Dutch soldiers that were taken prisoner, but after a while they had to report again to be
taken to a prisoners camp in Germany. The Jewish problem also

I felt that when the Germans came that although they were persecuting Jews
in Germany, that they wouldn't be so foolish as to extend that kind of action
into Holland; after all, we had a number of Jews, Holland has always been
hosipitable to people that were leaving for liberty and getting away from other
countries, and we felt that the Germans would be so foolish as to continue
that kind of policy in a country like ours. So, when the Germans had come and
the four year war was more or less settled, I went to the garage where I parked
my car; we didn't have a garage in our home, and I wanted to drive to Amsterdam.
Then I met there a Jewish couple who had come on a bicycle and they wanted to
________ which is the entry port for Amsterdam and I thought, well,
why should they be so panicky, moreover, I had really no time to I wanted
to go to Amsterdam and they wanted to go in the opposite direction, so I didn't
take them over, but these people, of course, had a better view of the dangers
that beset the Jews than I had.

LHA - These people were neighbors of yours in Bloomendahl?

OPA - They were no neighbors. I don't know where they came from.

LHA - Oh you didn't know them.
OPA - Didn't know them at all. I did hear stories about their ________
A lot of Jews went to see if they could catch a ________________ to flee
the Germans and some of the women were desparate and through babies into the
water, because they felt that they would rather kill them now than have them
suffer the ill treatment they could expect from the Germans.
LHA - The Jews didn't have any knowledge of the concentration camps then,
did they?
OPA - Well, they knew that they were persecuted in Germany but they had no
clear idea of what was awaiting them. The fact is they were too cooperative.
The Jews were proud to some extent and they did not want to deny they were
Jews. The synagogue kept a record of all the members of the synagogue and
of course, when Hitler came, he didn't know who was a Jew and who was not
a Jew. That was very difficult and at a certain point in the occupation
all Jews were ordered to wear a yellow David star on their chest and you saw
people with a David star who really didn't look Jewish at all you saw other
people who looked very Jewish with no David star. So, if the synagogue would
have been wiser to burn all their records, so they couldn't determine who was
a Jew and who wasn't. The idea was that the Jew would be a man, say whose
grandparents were registered with the synagogue, so that was a measure they
were going to take. We had two Jews in our organization and at a certain point our custodian, Mr. __________ determined that they had to be fired because they had to report for being sent to Germany and this was situation that could not be helped. They had to be fired they shouldn't be on the payroll anymore, so that was it.

H-A - Were they salesmen or what were they? Mechanics? or what?

OPA - They were salesmen. One of them was born in Argentina and he thought that his Argentine birth would set him free and he tried to prove that he was not a Jew. So, he went to a German professor expert supposed to know what a Jew was and what a Jew was not and they seemed to have some kind of an idea that a Jew would have his ear lobes against his head and a gentile would have his ear lobes separate and such crazy things and so he finally at the expense of several gilders got a certificate from this professor who said he was not a Jew. Then he should have moved and gone to some other place, but at night he was picked up from his home and he was taken as a prisoner in the army and was forced to go back to Germany. So, he was in a prisoner of war camp and survived the war.

LHA - Oh, he wasn't a prisoner in a Jewish camp?
OPA - No. He was just treated as a prisoner of war. So he survived the war.

LHA - Did you see him after the war?

OPA - We saw him after the war. The other Jew, of course, was fired and nothing we could do about it, but he had relations with customers where he had done some work, sold machines and installed them to do his ______work and he moved to Berlin in a part of the country where nobody knew him and so he succeeded in working so that he could have income, as he didn't report to be sent to Germany. So he survived the war, as a matter of fact, he later became after I left and after Mr. ______ left, he became manager of the Burroughs Corporation in Holland.

LHA - Oh for goodness sake, what was his name?

OPA - His name was Dotsch, so I presume he’s retired now. So the two Jews that we had survived the war and they were still good and healthy when the war was over.

LHA - Did this man come back and work for you again after the war? Were you still there when he came back?

OPA - I was still there, I think, but he went back to Argentina I think after the war. I don’t -
LHA - Well, you didn't hire him back, Mr. Snitzel must have.

OPA - No, because the trouble was that after the war we had no machines to sell, so we didn't need any additional salesmen. As a matter of fact, we didn't know what to do with the salesmen we had. So, we were not too anxious to hire back the salesmen that used to be with us and I don't remember the Argentine man that he applied for a job, I think he left the country. But the other one came over at one time that I had night duty in watching something so the Dutch underground would not sabotage them. They and he came while I was asleep in the daytime and Oma didn't want to wake me. I played Dutchmen against Dutchmen—divide & conquer was the reason because I had been up all night and she felt that I had to have my rest and he German motto. Later he was offended and left and he started to be an agent for Underwood at that time.

LHA - This was during the war or after the war?

OPA - This was after the war. During the war he was working for few customers of ours and succeeded in surviving. So we were glad that the two of them could survive the ordeal and when Mr. R___________ that was the name of the other Jewish man, he was picked up he was in a place where all these men were kept or put together and I went over to visit and saw the situation when another young man (redacted) had just tried to escape and was shot to death by the German guard and the whole situation was not very agreeable.
LHA - Did you see him where he was a prisoner of war?

OPA - I saw him - he was a prisoner of war and these people had comparative liberty and I could go and talk to him and it was no trouble and I could go in and go out.

LHA - Now is he the one who was offended because you didn't see him and went to work for Underwood?

OPA - No, he was all right, he was good, I don't remember how he fared after the war, but we didn't take him on, I think.

LHA - The man who went to Underwood, he's the man who eventually became manager?

OPA - Right. Later he was engaged by our company and in due course of time he became manager in Denmark after the war and then from there he wanted to come home and then he came home and Mr. Stipa ceased to be the manager.

LHA - Oh, so he didn't come back until Stipa had left?

OPA - No, I think he didn't come back until Stip had left, that's right, because he was already manager in Denmark and then he was transferred to Holland.

So, that was our story with the Jews. You had to be very careful as to what you would do and see that you did the thing you thought you should do and cover up your tracks - be sure that nobody notices it. So, at one time we had a case of
eastern part of the country. He had been active in a certain strike against the Germans and he was warned that the Dutch police that they had orders to pick him up during the night. So, he took the train to Bloomendahl to visit his girl and they both came and asked if they could stay in our house because staying at his girl’s house would be dangerous. So, we said well that’s okay you can stay here on one condition that you don’t have any connection with your girl anymore, that you don’t go outside anymore, you stay inside and stay put and don’t have any correspondence with anybody. So, they agreed to that and the girl went home and he stayed with us and stayed inside, never went outside. So, sometime later he learned that the police actually had invaded his house to arrest him and found him gone. So then they took his father and wanted to know from his father where his son would be and his father really didn’t know where he was and of course, he didn’t say where he suspected he would be. But when this young man learned that his father was arrested, he was - felt himself very guilty and he wanted to go back and give himself up to free his father. I told him you’re going to stay right here. If you go back to free your father that’s all very nice for you, but your father has lived his life and you still have you life ahead of you, so you have to say no matter what happens to your father it’s
your duty to stay right here because also if you go and give yourself up they
will want to know where have you been and they have ways and means to make you
talk, then I'm getting in trouble, so you stay right here and forget about it.
So, that's what he did, he stayed right with us for a number of months and at
one time I visited Rotterdam and visited my brother Sandor and found that
they had had several raids at the university where his son, Chris was studying
and he had been able to hide himself and escape, but now he was staying with his
parents and the Germans decided that any student who was staying with parents
who didn't give himself up, the parents would be arrested too. So, he felt he
had better give himself up because he could endanger his parents and I told him
no, you shouldn't do that because they'll send you to Germany to win the war and
it's against our interest, so you shouldn't do that at all, you should better
come over tonight and stay at our house. So, in the evening after dark he came
by train to our house, so we had two young men in our house besides Fred who
was also getting of age and couldn't really go outside.

LHA - Your oldest son, Fred was then how old, seventeen?

END OF SIDE "A" OF TAPE #6
LHA - You just mentioned Opa that Lyle Lavis had come to stay with you and you insisted he stay instead of going back and then your nephew Chris Sellenraad came to stay with you, so you had them hidden and also your son Fred, who I guess was seventeen then in 1944.

OPA - Yes - he couldn't go out with me

LHA - So you had these three young men hidden in your house.

OPA - Yes. The Germans decided that our radios should be turned in to the post office. All radios were registered at the post office, so they could see who had one. So, when this order came everybody had to turn in their radio. Well we had taken our radio from the place where it was in the room and placed it up in a secret space above the cupboards where I could crawl into and we had a special antenna that we could direct toward London, so as to listen to the reports from London and the fireside chats of President Roosevelt. I had to crawl in there and listen with my earphone and then the boys were anxiously waiting down on the floor in the room to hear as to whether the invasion had started.

LHA - You took shorthand, didn't you? You knew how to write shorthand and took down the BBC broadcast in shorthand.

OPA - I didn't take it down, I just told them what I had heard, so they would
be satisfied. But they expected the invasion and we were constantly encouraged by radio orange(?) in London to stay courageous and to wait until we were liberated, but we didn't realize that liberation was going to take a number of years.

LHA - Was this transmission in Dutch or in English?

OPA - The transmission from the Dutch radio was in Dutch but the transmission from the other radio, of course, and the fireside chats of Roosevelt were in English.

LHA - You said radio orange - I guess that means from the House of Orange

OPA - Yes, special broadcast for the Dutch people and they were constantly encouraged that the invasion was going to start. We didn't realize that it was going to take years before it actually happened. So we were encouraged by all the reports we had and we used that radio until the electricity stopped, then we couldn't use it anymore. We had a crystal radio where we could hear something sometime, but it was very difficult and the Germans, of course, were trying to jam the broadcast from England with the idea that they wanted to protect us from misinformation, but they gave us more misinformation than the Allies were.

LHA - Who was giving you more misinformation than the Allies?
OPA - Misinformation. They at first published everything that would show they were winning the war and from the Allies you would hear what was actually happening.

LHA - These broadcasts that you took down. Did you share them with anybody?

OPA - Didn't share them with anybody. No two people could be in that space, that space was only big enough for one person.

LHA - I thought you had a neighbor who made it available - mimeographed it or something and you gave it to other people.

OPA - No. That did happen, but we didn't get it and our neighbor didn't do it. When the order came to turn in our radios, I had to face the fact that it was registered at the post office. So, I happen to go to the Haig to visit ______ and I found that the Germans were razing part of the Haig to make an open field so that if the Allies should land on the Dutch coast they could be destroyed in an open field; so houses and churches and hospitals and everything were razed; whole streets were razed. So I made a note of some of the streets that disappeared and I made a point that I had sold my radio to a certain person on that street and turned in my report to the post office that my radio had been sold and that I didn't have it anymore and they told me I would have to pay another
gilder for dues of which I was supposed to be behind, because you have to pay a certain tax on it. So, I paid the gilder gladly and had my name written off as the owner of a radio and I still had my radio in my secret place and continued to listen until the electric current stopped in the last winter of the war and then, of course, I couldn't use it anymore.

LHA - During that last winter could you get any word from the outside world other than what the Germans told you?

OPA - Hardly. Fred tried to make some kind of a crystal radio but it didn't work very well and we couldn't really hear anything. So the last winter we were without any information. The Germans claimed that if anybody had a secret radio, they could go through the street and determine where the radio was and I came to the conclusion I had a compass and I tried to see if I moved the compass along the wall whether the compass would register the radio - that was when we still had electricity and I found that the point pointed toward the wall near the radio, but also pointed toward the wall where there was a pipe or any metal. So, I came to the conclusion it was not dangerous to keep the radio there. So I kept the radio all during the war, only during the last winter we couldn't use it.
LHA - How did you arrange for hiding places for all these people? Lyle Lavis, Chris and Fred?

OPA - We had when the war started, a carpenter to work for us and he told me we had a very large house and the house had three floors - ground floor, first floor, and second floor. The second floor still had a tremendous amount of space. As a matter of fact, the rooms there had a ceiling although the roof was pointed, there was space above these rooms and also the corners were all enclosed, because the rooms were not going to the corner where the roof would mar the ceiling but the rooms were all made with square walls and square ceilings, so there were spaces in the corners and one corner was used as an attic and was open and the other corners were not used and were behind walls. So I told the carpenter what I wanted is to make the walls so they could be opened so as nobody could notice it, so we could use that space. So we had three spaces where people could hide and if the walls were closed nobody would suspect that there was anyplace where you could hide anybody. At once we had a bed standing there where someone could sleep, another one we kept a stock of foodstuffs; every week I went to our grocer, Mr. Rueter, and bought whatever he wanted to sell me and I took it upstairs and put it away, because I realized
that in the longrun there wasn't going to be anything you could buy anymore.

So, we bought whatever we could buy and had everything taken care of in the particular space where we could take things as we needed them. Also, in this space there was a possibility where these three boys could hide and if I hadn't had that secret space, I don't know if it would have been safe to keep these three boys. They were supposed to stay inside, not show themselves in the window even, and take all possible precautions that they would be safe.

__________________ stayed in his house, he went to stay in a farm house outside of Rotterdam, where he could eat better than in the city and he said that if they came to his house to pick him up, they wouldn't find him, but you had to realize to a certain extent the fact that the Germans were burdened with all kinds of duties and some of the things wouldn't be done very well. When (couldn't hear this very well - but I did hear LHA express his thanks to Oma for a delightful cup of tea). Also Opa asked to stop a while.

LHA - You must have had a time feeding all these people.

OPA - Yes, because at first I could get some food stamps from Lyle Davis. He had some sausages and things that we did succeed in getting food.

Oma - But they never visited each other - the engaged couple.
LHA - It must have been very difficult.

Oma - And to keep these boys busy during the day was very difficult too.

LHA - That's when you got a pool table, wasn't it?

Opa - I bought a pool table.

LHA - You had five boys in your house then and your daughter.

Opa - Three boys + 2 underground people

LHA - But the two younger children too.

Opa - Three younger children

LHA - You had to, of course, trust the carpenter who built the secret rooms

Opa - There was quite a bit of trust among my people against the Germans, especially we knew the men very well and we could trust them not to say anything and that nobody would bother him. At the beginning of the war I realized that my car wouldn't be of average use and I went to the auto dealer where I parked my car and also dealt in bicycles and I bought from him a tandem. I come back to the pork chops that I bought at one time for our personnel and one of the mechanics that was faithfully working in our workshop to restore the machines, he came to my private office and I gave him the pork chops. He started crying that he had to accept pork chops from me under the circumstances. Don't you
worry you just take them and eat them. This man suffered very much from lack of food; a lot of people were suffering tremendously, they were all getting thinner and thinner; every week when you came into the church you could see the people getting thinner, because nobody had all the food they really needed, especially the last winter, it was terrible. My car after being preserved at first there was an order that you had to turn in all tires, so I took the tires from my car and hid under the floor of my house and then I made a delivery of the tires and kept a copy and destroyed the original letter and didn't register them. So, I could always prove that I gave my tires, although the tires were under the floor of my house, so they wouldn't find them. At the end of the war, of course, I could have the tires put on again. But before that happened, I was called by the auto dealer, he said some Canadian officers here – after the liberation – who wanted to take your car they think it is war booty and goes to the Germans and I tried to convince them it wasn't German and they didn't pay attention, so I went over and it had already been taken out of the garage and was standing in the street without tires and I told them that it was my car and put it back, so they had German prisoners put it back again, because they had to agree it wasn't German property. I almost lost the car. I
I had the tires taken over and put on the car and I had a beautiful Nash car that really was a rich position in those days. Only trouble was you needed gasoline to run it and you couldn't get gasoline unless you could prove that it was very essential for the economic life of the country.

LHA - Even after the war?

OPA - Even after the war. Because when the war was over, the situation was still not very good. Don't forget that if you have a country where everything is eaten up and everything disappeared, it takes quite a while before everything gets back to normal again. The fact is that there was liberation but the people who thought the liberation had come a few days earlier an there was a rumor that the __________ of the Queen was coming by, but the armistice hadn't been signed yet and the war was still going on and the Germans were brutal until the very last moment. Fact is that not only did they steal everything or take everything they could put their hands on, but they also - Hitler also ordered the generals to destroy the dikes, so all the lands would be flooded so no food could be grown and to revenge himself against the Dutch who opposed him and they would all be starving to death. Well, that happened at first, people did starve to death and some people when they thought that
was coming they put out their Dutch flag and that cost them dearly, because the Germans were brutal to the very last moment. You had to be very, very careful that you didn't take any steps that might incriminate you or call attention to you - you had to keep quiet - stay out of the limelight - that was the thing to do. So, finally we were liberated to end all our suffering, but not for that moment, because indeed Ally planes came and they dropped food in different places, but some people came and took the food and ate more than they should have eaten, because they were starving to death and so they got sick from all this food in their stomachs, but the food that was dropped really was not sufficient for the population. The people in the neighborhood who could pick it up had food but nobody else had any. So it took quite a while before the food was sufficient for people to have normal portions - that took a number of weeks. I remember going to Amsterdam shortly after our liberation and finding the people just walking down the street en masse and they had nothing to go to, they just wanted to walk and express their joy at being free again to do as they please and I saw an office on the third floor of some building where they threw out a portrait of Hitler and the people down on the street they threw the portrait into the canal, because they wanted
to kill their hatred of Hitler. It was all really a true liberation that people were free again and we didn't know just how we could celebrate it.

Well, there were, of course, people who came in the army of occupation in Dutch offices they assumed that there was nothing - they had to organize everything. So, a young officer came into our office and said we want this office, we need it, and so you have to get out.

LHA - Was this a Dutch officer, or Canadian officer?

OPA - Dutch officer, after the armistice and the Dutch officer came with the order that he should evacuate the office and I foolishly enough decided that the officer the moment he came, but I learned that afterwards before the evening we had to be out, otherwise he would call two of the boy scouts and have all our stuff put on the streets. That sounded like German - not Dutch. At any rate, I said well we have not suffered too much - that means we haven't lost any machines, haven't suffered any great damage, we have to be grateful that we survived. So, I want to accommodate the army of occupation and so if they think they need our office, we'll give it to them. I shouldn't have done that, because the service department with all the parts they had couldn't be moved and so I moved downstairs to a garage that was evacuated and
we had very awkward accommodations and the service department was upstairs
we were downstairs and it was very difficult and very awkward. So, I should
never have consented to do that. They stayed in our office for quite awhile
after the liberation and then were going to give it back to us but then they
created another organization, because these organizations didn't make a very
good reputation for themselves, so they had to change the name occasionally.
Then they claimed they had to be there for a little while. Finally, we got
an American counsel - I said if the Dutch authorities cannot be of any assist-
ance, I'm sorry but I'll have to call in the aid of the American counsel, so
I called the American counsel, I said that is the situation, would you see to
it that we get our office back? So he called the mayor of Amsterdam and to
see if we could get our office back. Of course, the mayor was anxious to
please the Americans because they had liberated us, so he found another place
for these people to stay. So, he told them to evacuate and we got our office
back finally. The liberation in itself was awkward in a way and the occupation
troops didn't give evidence they understood what the situation was and then
they should have made use of what was available, because everything hadn't been
destroyed, the organizations still existed and they could have used the organ-
izations - but that's, of course, something that happens. We finally got to a
point where we had sufficient food distribution where we could eat again and live like human beings again, but the country was devastated. The Germans had taken all the stocks that the Dutch government had laid up for the war, but for the duration of the war, they had also invaded private homes and taken everything that they could find. At one time we were supposed to deliver all copper, whatever we had that was copper we had to deliver to the Germans and there was an accumulation point in the city where you could bring your copper. Some people brought all kinds of copper, decorations and things, but I gave them just a little token small piece of copper that I could spare and just let it go at that - I gave them just as little as I possibly could. So, they had really robbed individuals of their bicycles, of their copper of everything that they could use in the war. When they were through and peace had finally come, then the country was totally empty - all factories had been robbed of their machinery, all railroad rails had been broken up and carted off to Germany, all electric wiring of the railroads had been taken down and taken off to Germany. There was really - and then some of the polders were flooded; happily, the officers didn’t execute all the orders by Hitler and that gives you some thought to have atomic power in the hands of dictators is a very dangerous thing
because if they, like Hitler, should lose their fight, they might unleash all their nuclear power and destroy the whole world, just for spite of having lost their position. So, that's something that hasn't really been considered properly, but it really should be, because at that time Hitler did everything possible to make life for the Dutch people impossible, so they would starve to death. Well, we had to import the pumps to pump out the water from the polder. We had to import everything that we needed, we didn't have anything; our factories needed raw materials to start working again and they needed the machinery to do it with and America was the only country that could still export things. So, they could export the things that we needed, but all this had to be paid for in dollars and we had no dollars, we were destitute - the country had nothing to export - usually import is paid by export and we had nothing to export. We still had to build up the country and get going. So, also the machinery that we wanted to sell couldn't be imported, but we did have a lot of machinery; the end of the war saw us in complete possession of all our machines that we had on consignment and none of them had been taken over by the Germans. We had guarded them; as a matter of fact, toward the end we had quite a bunch of machines throw
into a room, having blinded the windows, piled on top of each, with parts taken off each machine and so they couldn't be used.

LHA - You mean you deliberately took parts off so they couldn't be used?

OPA - We took parts off --

END OF TAPE #6, SIDE "B"