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2 ORAL HISTORY OF EUGENE LEE

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1 MR. RUSSERT: Well, thank you
2 very much for taking time with me today to do this.

3 MR. LEE: Do what?

4 MR. RUSSERT: Thank you very much
5 for taking time with me today.

6 MR. LEE: I've got a lot of time.

7 MR. RUSSERT: Okay. I'm just
8 going to ask you some simple questions first and
9 we'll get back into war.

10 INTERVIEW

11 BY MR. RUSSERT:

12 Q. I'd first like to know if you can
13 please state your name for me.

14 A. My name?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. Eugene W. Lee. Do you want --
17 Eugene Lee.

18 Q. And when and where were you born?

19 A. Born in the town of Salina.

20 Q. And -- and what date?

21 A. March 24th, 1899.

22 Q. Okay. Before the war did you
23 have any schooling at all? Did you go to school
24 or --?

1 A. Did I have any what?

2 Q. Schooling. Did you go to school?

3 A. Yeah, I went to school, four
4 years in high -- high school. And I finished four
5 years in the what-do-you-call-it, high school.

6 Q. Before the war did you do any
7 work or did you go right from school to war?

8 A. Yes. I worked for the Syracuse
9 Lighting Company. I went to work for them when I
10 was sixteen years old the first time.

11 Q. Okay. Why did you go into the
12 service? Was it because of the war or --?

13 A. Well, I know that when I filled
14 out to go the Marines and the war was declared the
15 7th of April and I became eighteen in March 24th so
16 I was just old enough to get in.

17 Q. And I know they asked this
18 question, but I want to hear it on tape. What
19 service -- what branch did you go into?

20 A. What branch?

21 Q. Like the Army, Marines?

22 A. Oh, I just went in the Marines.
23 That was my favorite, the Marines.

24 Q. Okay. Where did you do your

1 training, what -- was it in New York or --?

2 A. We didn't do any training. So
3 they sent us all over down to the Philadelphia Navy
4 Yard and all they done was just go ahead and put us
5 on the rifle range. Then after that we -- we come
6 back and they put us right on board ship. So we
7 didn't have to go to -- we never trained at Parris
8 Island.

9 Q. How was your -- do you remember
10 the ride over on the ship? What was the feelings
11 of yourself and the other --?

12 A. The what?

13 Q. What was your feelings or your
14 attitude going over on the ship? Were you guys
15 nervous, were you, you know, excited?

16 A. Well, yeah, we were thirteen days
17 going across and I guess it was a new ship, the
18 Henderson, the block I was in and they put us down
19 in there where we had to -- took turns on the big
20 wheel steering it. They told us what to do.

21 Q. Where were you stationed overseas
22 when you first got to last time on land, where did
23 you guys land?

24 A. We landed in Saint Nazaire and we

1 were there, oh, I don't know, two or three days I
2 guess and then they sort of found a way to put us
3 on to Digendorf. I guess that is some -- some
4 little village. And they had us there for training
5 there for what the trenches were like and so on.

6 Q. Now this is -- this is what,
7 19 -- 1917, was it? When exactly -- when -- the
8 war was going on for what, two years or more?
9 Britain was in the war -- the British was in the
10 war for two years before you actually went over.
11 So was the war already in progress? Right?

12 A. Yeah. Well, we went over right
13 away and the -- the way we spent our time was in
14 this little town, I guess it was Lenendorf that was
15 the place where we were at. Digendorf is where we
16 were in Germany.

17 Q. You had camps over there or
18 stay -- did they have -- did they have barracks, I
19 guess, or did you stay in tents?

20 A. No. We didn't have -- we didn't
21 have any barracks. We -- I -- well, I guess when
22 you're staying in a -- some of us in an old barn
23 where we were -- we were training -- training there
24 for the French war, but --.

1 Q. Going back a few years, what was
2 your reaction or America's reaction to the sinking
3 of Lusitania that compelled Britain into the war?

4 A. Did I what?

5 Q. The sinking of the -- of the ship
6 Lusitania when the Germans sunk that in 1915, you
7 know what I'm talking about, the -- the large ship
8 that killed like a hundred and thirty Americans and
9 that kind of had the -- set forth possibly in
10 bringing us in the War. Was there any feelings,
11 any anticipation that you guys might be going to
12 war when that ship was sunk?

13 A. I don't know. I was always -- I
14 was -- I went over for the Marines and my Ship.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And when war was -- war was
17 declared I was -- I just told them I was going save
18 the world.

19 Q. What -- what were the feelings
20 toward German Americans back then? I -- I read
21 somewhere that America during the war a lot of like
22 German food was changed like the -- the sauerkraut
23 was changed, the name of that, and certain German
24 food with names like Libby Gerber or the hamburger

1 and what was the feelings towards German Americans
2 back then?

3 A. At that time, well, they -- we
4 had a lot of Germans right in our own company.

5 Q. What -- what were your -- what
6 was it like fighting your -- did they have -- I
7 mean I'm -- I'm sure their -- their patriotism
8 toward America was great, but did people in your
9 own company look at them differently because they
10 were Germans or did they treat them like any other
11 soldier?

12 A. Well, I don't know what they
13 though I accord them.

14 Q. What -- what were the conditions
15 like? What was like the weather or the food you
16 ate, stuff like that, when you're over in France?
17 What --?

18 A. Over in France, well, we had so
19 much corned beef. We had plenty of that and stew.
20 And on holidays we had -- we had turkey. I can
21 remember for one holiday that was after -- after
22 the war ended we followed the Germans, we had to
23 follow them all the way back into Germany. And we
24 had a holiday in Luxembourg. We had -- that was in

1 **November.**

2 Q. How about -- how about your
3 water, was there plenty of drinking water or how
4 did you get water for all the men?

5 A. Well, we -- we had water they'd
6 bring up when we had our canteens, you know, but
7 when we stopped anyplace that had -- they got some
8 water in these big tanks and we could -- they
9 doctored the water up anyway. So we always had our
10 canteens filled with water.

11 Q. So did you have plenty of water
12 or were you rationed so much water?

13 A. Well, we had -- we never had to
14 worry about water. We got water from somewhere
15 anyway.

16 Q. How much contact did you have
17 with your family back and forth? How often would
18 you receive letters or send letters to your family?

19 A. Well, I got letters long while.
20 I never -- after I left home I never got back home
21 again until it was all over. That was -- I never
22 had any furlough or anything like that.

23 Q. Now -- now you fought in these
24 trenches, what were the -- what were the conditions

1 like in the trenches?

2 A. There wasn't much to it, great
3 big -- big trenches there that they had walked --
4 they had the boards down there and all we done was
5 we -- we just -- we didn't do anything. They just
6 sent us in there and nothing to do and they -- once
7 in a while you'd hear a -- there wasn't any real
8 fighting we had in the enrolled in the trenches, it
9 was just that what it was like I guess. And you
10 had to be careful because more often than they had
11 planks down in there that you didn't get off on the
12 plank. It was muddy down in there, walking and
13 they -- just once in a while the Germans might
14 throw over a few shells and that's what our -- our
15 news guy got.

16 So not much fighting in that war
17 when we was there. It was after -- after we left
18 the trenches they took us back into a rest area for
19 a while and then we wasn't there very long.

20 And then they loaded us in trucks
21 and moved us. We didn't know where we were going,
22 so when we -- we found out after we got out.
23 That's when they marched -- they marched us -- we
24 had to march up and that was one carry messages

1 they come in bags, walking back, and whatever they
2 could carry, and they had dogs carts and carrying
3 it on ahead. And there was one French soldier
4 there that come along. He was going back and he
5 says "Locale dives." That's all he said. Well,
6 we -- that's when they marched us. They only
7 marched us up so far and that's when we -- when --
8 when Bella Woods took place. They got us up there
9 and spread us out in formation.

10 Q. How did you feel at Bella Woods?
11 Were you --

12 A. And --

13 Q. -- scared at Bella Woods or were
14 you --?

15 A. Huh?

16 Q. Oh, I'm sorry. Just relax.
17 Okay. Go ahead. Continue with your story about
18 Bella Woods.

19 A. Well, they spread us out in
20 formation and then they -- we saw these war
21 brothers and up ahead was the woods. We didn't
22 know what it was till we started -- started about
23 that. Then the -- the both squads, the first squad
24 had started ahead and fired and they was firing all

1 the while. They -- they couldn't see us, they were
2 just trying to make a screen for us. And we went
3 in waves, you know, in four waves. We walked in
4 waves. The first wave went so far and they were
5 scattering. They couldn't see anything, but they
6 were trying to fire -- just firing along the edge
7 of the woods in the woods there and that. And
8 then -- and they laid down and then the next wave
9 come along and leaped over them. And that's the
10 way we done. They'd go on and then the next wave
11 and they were shooting all the while to try to --
12 we couldn't see -- see anybody in the woods, but
13 they machine guns there and firing at us. And
14 finally we worked our way into the woods. And
15 that's when the real fighting took place. They got
16 us in the act.

17 And we didn't have any artillery
18 fire for us of course because it was coming up in
19 back of us. And the Germans was following and boy,
20 they had the back up, on account of their own guns
21 we got -- got to the woods and then it was just man
22 for man, even in there and they finally drove --
23 they drove them right out of the woods and they
24 got -- they got way back on a -- well, I don't

1 know, but when we got them out of the woods we
2 had -- we dug in foxholes there. They had to
3 wait -- no, actually we -- we built them up, but we
4 had to wait for our own artillery to come up and
5 back us up too.

6 I was -- let's see --.

7 Q. Now Mr. Lee, you received your
8 Purple Heart and your Silver Star at Bella Woods?

9 A. Yeah. I got way -- oh, right
10 along there -- just ruptured, cut it open along --
11 somewhere along there. And of course they had
12 this -- at that time then they got back and they
13 put us in a truck and -- let's see, how do I
14 explain that. We got back on trucks they moved us
15 anyway.

16 Probably they were hit -- some of
17 them were hit bad. I was just -- just lucky. It
18 just grazed me, well, yet somewhere along there
19 somewhere. And they took us to Paris where some of
20 the wounded were. We was there overnight in tents
21 in Paris and that night you could hear them -- you
22 could hear weapons come -- come over. And of
23 course there was all kind of gunfire, the French
24 firing at them. They moved us down to Bordeaux

1 afterwards there. That part there's a hospital
2 down there. There were some hospitals.

3 Q. So how -- how did you get the
4 Silver Star?

5 A. I don't know. I don't know why
6 they gave me this Silver Star.

7 Q. Did you help -- did you help pull
8 Marines --?

9 A. Huh?

10 Q. Did you help pull some of
11 your --?

12 A. Oh, God, yes. That was just
13 Bella Woods there helping. They had a Navy medic
14 aide that was from the Navy. They asked me to help
15 carry some of the wounded back, get them back away
16 from the line and then go back again. We was
17 carrying wounded out. Plus there was shells coming
18 over pepper spraying around there. And let's
19 see -- I don't know why they gave me this Silver
20 Star. They had to give it to somebody.

21 Q. Did -- did you ever get in
22 trouble while over there?

23 A. In trouble?

24 Q. You know, like -- like -- like

1 just you and your buddies?

2 A. Well, I already said when I got
3 in it was after -- they were going to send this
4 back to our company from the hospital, so the kid I
5 got acquainted with down there and we got on -- on
6 the train or were supposed to get on the train and
7 we didn't. He got in a -- he got in a craps game
8 and I -- I don't know how much he -- he won about
9 six or seven hundred francs. And he was a Marine
10 out of Pittsburgh and when I got acquainted with
11 him in the hospital. He says what do you say we go
12 out and have a good time one night. And I told him
13 I didn't have any -- any money. He says I got
14 some. So they -- so he gets on the train. When
15 they get on there was a camp -- there was a lot of
16 Frenchmen in a camp right near there. When they
17 got on the train we got over in the French were,
18 the French were, and -- and we didn't get on the
19 train. We were mixing with them Frenchmen over
20 there till the train pulled out. Then -- then
21 afterwards we went around Paris there having a good
22 time. And we run out of money and we went -- we
23 both had pay -- pay -- back pay coming and we found
24 a Marine Headquarters there in Paris there and we

1 went up and asked them because we'd run out of
2 money. And they give two hundred and fifty francs
3 to each of us that we had on the books there
4 anyway. Oh --.

5 Q. What -- what did you do with the
6 money that you got?

7 A. -- went around having a good time
8 in Paris, everything. We went up to Big tower
9 Eiffel Tower and went around. When we went back we
10 went -- the Marines had headquarters there and we
11 went -- we stopped in there and I asked them -- as
12 luck would have it there was a little Gentleman in
13 there that this other fellow was from the 5th
14 Regiment and he knew him and he give us two hundred
15 and fifty francs apiece.

16 And when that was -- when that
17 run out we got on a train. We didn't know where we
18 was going, just to get out of Paris. And then it
19 stopped someplace in Orleans stopped. And we
20 wanted to get -- get out to -- to buy something
21 there and they had M.P.'s along there and they come
22 along and stopped us. They wanted to look at our
23 pass and we didn't have any. So they arrested us,
24 put is in that brig there. But we was only in

1 there a couple of days and they -- they took me
2 with one fellow, he was in the 6th Regiment, and
3 then told me I had -- they're sending me back.

4 They sent one -- an escort, an
5 M.P. back with me. And let's see, we had to -- we
6 had to get on a train to go back and we had to stop
7 overnight somewhere. And I -- I woke him up, I
8 told him I wanted to go to the head. He said well,
9 go ahead. He didn't go -- go with me. He -- he
10 knew I wasn't going to go anywhere. So I come back
11 and he took me back to the -- to my company. They
12 were just getting ready for the -- for the drive,
13 for the Arrogon drive. He took me back and -- and
14 to the sergeant major there. They said -- he said
15 well, he said I'm going to put him in the brig. He
16 said we haven't got any brig. He said well,
17 there's not any brigs. Well, they -- well, they
18 put a corporal there, you know, how do -- how do
19 they call it again, the corporal was --.

20 Q. Corporal of the guard?

21 A. They -- they have -- when they
22 had to take me back under one of these -- one of
23 the M.P.'s, but they got me back to headquarters
24 where the -- as I say, they were getting ready for

1 that big drive and they said to put him in the
2 brig. And they said they didn't have any brigs,
3 but they had got a lot of new men in the -- new men
4 in the company, a lot of new ones that had never
5 been up to the front and what do they do, they put
6 me in charge of a squad and I was still under
7 arrest. And they put me in charge of a squad.

8 And while I was saying I had -- I
9 had that for as long as -- as long as -- let's see,
10 well, it was -- was the last drive. How did they
11 get --?

12 Well, as I say, they put me in --
13 they got a lot of new men in the company while I
14 was there and they give me charge of the squad.
15 But anyway that's the -- I'm trying to think. It's
16 mixed up. Anyway, they got us up --.

17 Q. You didn't see --?

18 A. Huh?

19 Q. Okay. Go ahead. I'm sorry.

20 A. It seems to me I'm missing
21 something. But anyway, I know that we -- we was up
22 there -- I was the up on the Aragon drive, that
23 was -- that's when the war ended, but they got --
24 got us up the -- I'm -- I'm mixed up on it some

1 way. I -- I can remember it was right up near
2 the -- near the front there.

3 Q. Good thing I --?

4 A. I'm -- I'm -- I'm trying to
5 figure out how we got there.

6 Q. So you ended up at Weise River
7 and that's where they did that peace signing?

8 A. Yeah. Well, I forget there was a
9 couple of other drives we -- they made going up
10 till we got up and I'm -- I'm thinking of the night
11 of the 10th. I forgot how I got there. It was --
12 we was waiting for night and I know that. And you
13 sat back there --.

14 Q. Where --?

15 A. We was up to the river that's
16 when the war was ended. That's the last night,
17 that night had to get the couple of other drives
18 that they had to get up there, but I'm thinking of
19 November the 10th and at night we had to march down
20 to the river. They had a pontoons across the river
21 and we -- we crossed the river and probably it was
22 going to be the last night of the war. And we
23 crossed that and they spread us out along the
24 river -- river bank, spread us out.

1 So once in a while the Germans
2 would throw over a -- they'd shell us all and one
3 of them landed in the river out there and one of
4 the best buddies I had there, he got killed that
5 night. It was one of them shells landing in the
6 river.

7 In the morning we -- we were all
8 scattered out along the front and it comes morning,
9 it was a nice sunny day and a big fields all the
10 way up in front of us. But nobody would fire. We
11 didn't fire our rifles once after we got across
12 there.

13 And it comes -- well, it comes
14 around a couple hours we are having an attack and
15 to give the word cease fire all the way. And just
16 as -- and then it was a few minutes after eleven we
17 looked up there and we see a -- well, we -- it was
18 the German Officer came out from with the white
19 flags with an aide with them. They started walking
20 down and there we had a lieutenant along there, he
21 walks out a ways and up there to -- to meet them.
22 And by that time when they did the talking there
23 the German soldiers come walking down that hill
24 there and our and all of our fellows got up out

1 the -- up there and actually got mixed -- mixed --
2 mixed up with Americans. And some of them speak
3 English just like some of our fellows could speak
4 German. And if they couldn't they -- we got along,
5 traded souvenirs with them and giving them smokes
6 there. That's the way that we celebrated Armistice
7 Day. It was a -- a --.

8 Q. How long -- how long after that
9 day before you went home? How many days or months
10 after the signing did you go back?

11 A. That I got home?

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. Oh --.

14 Q. Until you got home.

15 A. About nine months.

16 Q. Nine months?

17 A. After that they -- the next day
18 they -- well, at night we had camp fires anyway and
19 the next day they wanted -- they give us the honor
20 of following the German Army back into Germany. We
21 had to follow in back of them every day. And
22 during that day it comes Thanksgiving Day and we
23 was in Luxembourg. That's where we had our turkey
24 dinner too. I had gotten into Germany there, I --

1 I was there nine months.

2 Q. Now was that with a German family
3 you had the turkey?

4 A. No. We had our own. That was in
5 Luxembourg we had the turkey. We were following
6 the Germans back and they brought us back and they
7 put -- they brought us to this little town in
8 Digendorf. They took the men and put so many men
9 in the Hollows and the Germans there the way the --
10 the house I was in they put me in one room we had
11 and Top Sergeant had another big room in the house
12 I was in. I never -- I didn't see him. Well, I
13 saw him every day, but not in the house there.

14 And the -- of course the Germans
15 were now having the best time, they were kind of
16 shy of us. They didn't know what would do there
17 was no time. Everybody -- of course we had to go
18 out, we had to our -- have our gun with us all the
19 while. And afterwards we got to know them and we
20 didn't have -- we never had to carry any guns
21 anymore. So we went out and waited.

22 Q. Now how about the time you
23 went -- how about the time you went deer hunting?

24 A. Pardon?

1 Q. How about the time that you went
2 deer hunting?

3 A. Oh. Well, the house I stayed in
4 was right up at the end of this little village,
5 nothing there was woods. Yes, I walked up -- I
6 used to go up there and every day I walked up in
7 there to see deer. And we was allowed to shoot
8 wild boar or anything, but we wasn't allowed to
9 shoot deer. But this time I took my rifle with me
10 and I walked up in the woods there and oh, probably
11 a mile up in there. All of a sudden I spotted --
12 there were three deer there and I just saw one
13 there I shot and I knocked him dead so I went up
14 and see that it was all right and I -- I got out of
15 there then. I moved some branches over the deer
16 and I went back down to the camp there and I got a
17 fellow, told him what I did. And he -- he went
18 with me and we got the deer and brought it back --
19 back down. It was easy because where I -- I didn't
20 have to walk through the village, I come right down
21 through the woods into this house and it was back
22 there. And the -- the old man that was in the --
23 in the house there, we pulled the deer down, he
24 took it, took us down cellar and that's -- the next

1 night or the next night the German woman cooked up
2 this steaks and we -- of course it was hard for
3 them to get any -- any like that at that time. And
4 we had this big dinner. That was all we -- we
5 don't want anymore or wanted to give it to them
6 people, let them have the meat.

7 Let's see. But as I say, after
8 we got acquainted with the German people there we
9 got so we didn't even have to carry any guns
10 anymore. And we -- we actually had -- in fact we
11 didn't even -- that was the easiest time I had when
12 I was in the service. We had the playground and
13 played baseball and -- and would get on a --
14 there's a little trolley there that run over to see
15 the buoys on the Rhine River and we could -- well,
16 you might say about five -- five miles over -- five
17 or six miles over, but we'd ride on the trolley.
18 You could actually go over there every day if we
19 wanted to. I'd go over and they had a nice place
20 like a Y.M.C.A. with a dandy swimming pool in
21 there. Go over there and -- and there's always a
22 bunch going over that was -- all we had to do was
23 be back and have roll call in the morning.

24 Q. Were there any parades when you

1 got back home for you or any celebrations?

2 A. No. I was really only stationed
3 over there nine months. When I got home --.

4 Q. Were there -- were there any
5 parades in Europe?

6 A. Any parties?

7 Q. Parades.

8 A. Marines?

9 Q. Parades, like celebrations.

10 A. No. No. We -- let's see, it
11 was --.

12 Q. Were there any parades in Europe?

13 A. Yes, and I'm trying to remember
14 how the devil I got in them. We paraded in --.

15 Q. The -- the -- the victory parade?

16 A. Paraded in the -- in Paris and
17 London, in New York and Philadelphia I think it
18 was. We paraded afterwards, after we got -- I
19 don't know how --.

20 Q. When -- when -- when you
21 returned --?

22 A. Huh?

23 Q. When you returned from the war
24 did your mother come and meet you?

1 A. Yeah. It was -- it was down
2 around Long Island is where we were stationed. I
3 forget the name of the place. And they give me a
4 pass there. My uncle lived in New Rochelle and
5 I -- I got a pass to go up there to New Rochelle
6 and see him. And I told him when I was going to
7 get out, when we were going to get discharged and
8 what he'd do is he'd call my mother up. And when I
9 was discharged I come back, I had told him I was
10 going to stop there again, and I come back and my
11 mother was -- was there to meet me. But --.

12 Q. And then you came home after
13 that?

14 A. Huh?

15 Q. And then you came home after
16 that?

17 A. Well, I was -- I met her, but I
18 wasn't -- I had to go back to get the discharge.
19 And all of a sudden after -- after I got -- I told
20 my uncle I'll come back and we got the train and
21 went to Syracuse. And that was the first time I
22 got home since the time I enlisted.

23 Q. How about -- how about the church
24 bells ringing? Did you hear about the church

1 bells?

2 A. Yeah, I guess they did have
3 the -- even Liverpool was small, you know, and
4 they -- somebody rang the fire bells. Those were
5 the times.

6 Q. Veterans -- Veterans Day is
7 celebrated on November 11th, the anniversary --.

8 A. The what?

9 Q. Veterans Day is celebrated every
10 year on November 11th because of the peace signing
11 in WW I. What does Veterans Day mean to you? Is
12 it more special or -- or --?

13 A. Veterans Day?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. Oh yeah. Well, I think that
16 November the 11th I'll always -- I'll always think
17 of the way we celebrated it. Like people had
18 dances and so we celebrated with the German
19 soldiers. And once the war was over they wanted to
20 get over just as well as we did.

21 Q. What -- what -- what makes you
22 proud to be an American? What -- what is special
23 about America to you?

24 A. America? Well, it -- I'd like to

1 think that to all these other countries we are a
2 free country. But all the restrictions they're
3 putting on the people today I don't know whether
4 it's free or not. They're starting to stiff you
5 for everything.

6 Q. So what -- what differences do
7 you see like in this country today as compared to
8 when you were growing up, the restrictions and
9 stuff or -- or like what -- what is different today
10 than back when you were like my age?

11 A. Well -- well -- well, we are free
12 people and we -- boy, every time we turn around now
13 they're restricting us for something, some new law.
14 They can't make enough laws now to -- but it's
15 still -- it's still the best country though.

16 Q. Personal for me, my daughter is
17 two years old, she was born one hundred years after
18 you were born. What kind of life can you give
19 somebody of her age like for life, like what --
20 what would you say to her a hundred years since she
21 was born, what -- what -- what would you like to
22 say to her if you could tell her something to like
23 about life or about -- about living life?

24 A. Well, I don't know. Let's see.

1 Q. Did you understand me? My
2 daughter -- my daughter is one hundred years
3 younger than you. In all your years of experiences
4 what -- what simple advice or what kind of advice
5 could you give her about -- about living I guess?

6 A. Oh, gee, that would be hard.
7 Just -- I don't know what to tell her, to do what
8 her father and mother does. Today you would give
9 her the best advice.

10 Q. If -- if you had a wish of how we
11 could make our younger generation more
12 knowledgeable or more respectful of the past of
13 these wars how would you do it? How would you make
14 these -- the new generation ahead of us remember?

15 A. What to do --?

16 Q. What to do or how to -- or how to
17 remember those who made the country free from World
18 I and from WW II and on? How do we -- how -- how
19 would you -- what would your wish be for the new
20 generations to remember men like you and women who
21 made this country free?

22 A. Have to ask questions and to
23 answer how -- one of the best things is the people
24 could.

1 Q. What -- if you had one wish how
2 do we make today's young people remember war
3 veterans, remember what was sacrificed in the wars?
4 How do we make young generations remember that?

5 A. Let's see. That's a hard
6 question to ask.

7 Q. Okay. What -- what -- what would
8 you do that's going to make people remember?

9 A. To make them remember?

10 Q. To remember the sacrifices that
11 our veterans have gone through.

12 A. Well, Memorial Day is one of the
13 big good days. Just -- just -- just try to tell
14 them what to do, tell them -- tell them to lay off
15 the dope for one thing. But just -- just tell them
16 to follow their mother and father, do what they
17 say.

18 Q. Is there anything else you want
19 to add about your experiences or about America,
20 anything else that you want to share with us?

21 A. Well, there's lots of things that
22 I could think of, but I -- follow the law is the
23 best thing and to lay off -- lay off that dope.
24 That's the one thing that could ruin a young kid.

1 MR. RUSSERT: Well, I thank you
2 so much to it's been my deepest honor for me to
3 interview you. I appreciate it very much. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. LEE: Well, I'll tell you the
6 best I can.

7 MR. RUSSERT: It was wonderful.

8 MR. LEE: Okay.

9 MR. RUSSERT: A very deep honor
10 for me to interview you. Thank you so much.

11 (The interview concluded)

12 PWSS

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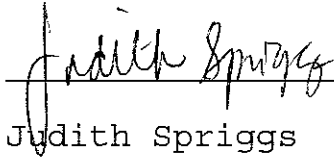
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1 This is a transcription of the audio
2 provided to us. It is completed to the best of our
3 skill and ability. The transcript consists of
4 pages 1 through 30 inclusive.

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Judith Spriggs

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Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc.

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