

The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in World War II

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Descriptive Summary

Title

The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in World War II [OHP 018]

Dates

1995-2001

Creator

Heidi Vion

Extent

22 oral histories. 19 narrators.

Collateral:

Research documents, correspondence, ephemera, photographs, etc.
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Project Abstract

This project is a compilation of oral histories conducted with the members of Detachment 101 of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). This unit was engaged in both guerilla warfare and espionage work utilizing military strategies and black propaganda during World War II. The project includes interviews with men who worked in the diverse operation areas of Detachment 101 and fulfilled the different jobs needed to successfully achieve their individual missions, as well as their unit's collective mission.

The project interviews are dialogical autobiographies, which are expressed primarily in the narrator's own words, but driven by questions provided by the interviewers. It is the hope that these oral histories will help future historians by providing firsthand accounts of the China Burma India (CBI) Theater and working with the native people of Burma. These oral histories help detail the history of the special operation forces that today are the U.S. military's mainstay, chart the history of the CIA and its inception, and illustrate how the government interacted with outside forces.

Narrators:

Tom Baldwin

Dennis Cavanaugh

Julia Child

Carl Eifler

Harry Hengshoon

Roger Hilsman

John Hoffman

Joseph Lazarsky

Peter Lutken

Thomas Moon

Danny Mudrinich

Julian Niemczyk

Stuart Power

Allen Richter

Viscount [Lord] John Slim

Lee Storm

Oliver Trechter

Jim Ward

Clair Weeks

OH 2395

Narrator: MOON, TOM
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: April 13, 1995
Location: Garden Grove, California
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 01:43:08
Transcript: final; 23 pages
Ephemera: clipping (1)

Abstract:

An oral history of Thomas Moon, a member of OSS Detachment 101. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experiences during World War II in the OSS Detachment 101. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with Moon's childhood; American and European's different way of doing things; Moon's job as a cryptographer with the OSS Detachment 101; the history of the OSS Detachment 101; Moon's opinions about Ho Chi Minh and other Asian leaders; the OSS agents in Europe and the differences in the missions of the OSS in Asia and Europe; various diseases that the men had while they stayed in Burma; the training of the OSS agents; and finally, about the CIA and the Special Forces.

OH 2469

Narrator: POWER, STUART (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: November 5, 1995
Location: Riverside, California
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio format: digital
Length: 00:30:43
Transcript: final; 13 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Stuart Power, a member of the OSS Detachment 101. The purpose of this interview was to collect information on his experiences in OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview covers Stuart's childhood and family; his entrance into the Army in 1941 and his early duties there; his recruitment and arrival in OSS Detachment 101; his duties in the OSS Detachment 101; his cousin Sir Arthur Power, the Commander-in-Chief of the British Southeast Asian fleet; and finally, his life after World War II.

OH 2470

Narrator: HENGSHOON, HARRY [Skittles] (b. 4/24/1913 – d.12/31/08)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: November 4, 1995
Location: Fountain Valley, California
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio format: digital
Length: 02:32:52
Transcript: final; 30 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Harry “Skittles” Hengshoon, one of the native agents who helped the OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. The purpose of this interview was to gather information on his experiences in OSS Detachment 101. This interview is part of Heidi Vion’s master’s thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with his birth and his childhood; his education and what he studied in school; his wife Kathleen and his family and how they were separated at the beginning of the war; his trip out of Burma because of the Japanese invasion; his experiences and jobs while he was in India; his various responsibilities and missions while he was part of OSS Detachment 101; and finally, his life after World War II including his escape from Burma to save his life.

OH 2471

Narrator: CAVANAUGH, DENNIS
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: November 2, 1995
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio format: digital
Length: 03:49:12
Transcript: final; 52 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Dennis Cavanaugh, member of the OSS Detachment 101. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dennis' experiences in OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with Dennis' childhood and educational past; his jobs and locations when he was first drafted into the Army; his experiences as Air Drop officer in OSS Detachment 101; his various careers after World War II including real estate; radio station management; advertisement; and bail bondsman; and finally, his knowledge of the OSS Detachment 101 members and their achievements after World War II.

OH 2536

Narrator: WEEKS, CLAIR (b. 9/14/1911 – d. 8/26/1996)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: February 22, 1996
Location: Rossmoor, California
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 01:52:41
Transcript: final; 29 pages
Ephemera: clippings (2); documents (2)

Abstract:

An oral history of Clair Weeks, a member of the OSS Detachment 101. The purpose of this interview was to collect information regarding his experiences in OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with Clair Weeks' being raised in India with his missionary parents; his education and his travels; his career with Walt Disney as an animator before World War II; his draft into the Signal Corps and his experiences in this unit; his recruitment into the OSS and his responsibilities and duties in the Morale Operations division in OSS Detachment 101; his return to Disney after World War II; and his experiences in the Agency for International Development (AID) in the 1950s and 1960s; and finally, Clair Weeks' opinions and perspectives on Walt Disney and the Disney Corporation of the time.

OH 2537

Narrator: BALDWIN, TOM
Interviewer: Hedi Vion
Date: February 12, 1996
Location: Fountain Valley, California
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 01:24:08
Transcript: final, 22 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Thomas Baldwin, a member of the OSS Detachment 101. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experiences in OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically this interview encompasses Thomas Baldwin's childhood and education; his draft into the army and early career in the Army; his recruitment into OSS Detachment 101; his training in Washington D.C.; his responsibilities and duties as a training officer in the Nazira Training Camps and then his duties as the liaison officer to the British Fourteenth Army; his perspective and observations on the various ethnic groups he worked with; and finally, his career in the CIA and his experiences as a CIA operative.

OH 2561

Narrator: HILSMAN, ROGER (b. 11/23/1919 – d. 2/23/2014)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: September 28, 1997
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 01:30:51
Transcript: final; 35 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Dr. Roger Hilsman, member of the OSS Detachment 101. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dr. Hilsman's experiences in OSS Detachment 101. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with Dr. Hilsman's childhood and his family; his attendance of West Point; his recruitment and activities in Merrill's Marauders; his jobs and responsibilities after he joined OSS Detachment 101; his experiences as the commanding officer of a Kachin Ranger troop; his rescue of his father from a Prisoner of War camp in China at the end of World War II; and finally, his perspectives and experiences after World War II and on different members of the Kennedy family. Note that Jim Ward (OH 2566) also joins this interview at one point.

OH 2562

Narrator: SLIM, VISCOUNT JOHN (b. 7/20/1927 – d. 1/12/2019)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: September 28, 1997
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio format: digital
Length: 00:51:23 **(RESTRICTED)**
Transcript: final; 16 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history with Viscount [Lord] John Slim. This interview deals with Slim's upbringing in India and attendance at Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College; joining a Gurkha Rifle Regiment; involvement with Burma Star Association, which was started by his father and Lord Mountbatten. Slim discusses his experience with the Gurkha Rifles and with the Burma Star Association; he discusses his involvement in SAS [Special Air Services] and the different intelligence agencies in Great Britain; he explains the various nobility titles and how one receives the title; and discusses difference between the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

OH 2563.1

Narrator: LAZARSKY, JOSEPH E. (d. 7/30/2013)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: September 28, 1997
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio format: digital
Length: 01:05:57
Transcript: final; 18 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Joseph Lazarsky, a member of the OSS Detachment 101. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experiences in OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with Joseph Lazarsky's background growing up in Pennsylvania and attending college before being recruited for the OSS. Lazarsky discusses being sent to the China-Burma-India Theater in 1943 and working with the Free Thai Movement. He recalls how in 1944 he was asked by Colonel Peers to take over airdrops; and talks about his involvement in the Burma Campaign, including operations in Myitkina and Sadon. He discusses traveling to Sinlum Kaba with a Kachin named Lazum Tang, who helped him recruit Kachins from the area; and working with Captain Pete Joost. Lazarsky describes operations along the Burma Road with his battalion, learning the Kachins' fighting philosophy and working alongside them in attacks against the Japanese. He talks about the fall of Lashio; being sick with malaria; meeting his wife Barbara and her involvement with the WASP program; and lastly, shares his thoughts on past CIA directors, as well as the lifelong friendships he made during his time in the OSS.

OH 2563.2

Narrator: LAZARSKY, JOSEPH E. (d. 7/30/2013)
Interviewer: Gail Gutierrez
Date: September 29, 2001
Location: unknown
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 02:37:09 (RESTRICTED AUDIO)
Transcript: final; 35 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Joseph Lazarsky, a member of the OSS Detachment 101. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his experiences in OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with Joseph Lazarsky's OSS training at the "secret" camp in the Washington D.C. area; his travel companion, Nicol Smith, on his trip to Burma to join the OSS Detachment 101; Lazarsky's arrival in Burma and the various responsibilities he was given during his time in Burma. He talks about making air drops, missions against the Japanese, working with the Kachin people, and battling diseases like malaria and dysentery. Lastly, he briefly talks about his return to civilian life and entrance into the CIA, and courtship and marriage to his wife, Barbara.

OH 2564

Narrator: LUTKEN, JR., PETER KOCH (b. 9/5/1920 – d. 1/13/2014)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: September 28, 1997
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 02:02:38
Transcript: final; 27 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Peter Koch Lutken, Jr., former member of OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his life story and, specifically, his wartime activities associated with the OSS. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with Lutken's early years. He was born on September 5, 1920 in Mississippi; his father served in World War I in France. Lutken briefly mentions attending the University of Mississippi and graduating in June 1941; receiving his commission in November 1941 and being sent in spring of 1942 to India. Lutken discusses the V Force and his involvement; discusses all native groups, especially the Kachins; describes his experiences with the Merrill's Marauders; talks about being wounded in combat; his transfer to Detachment 101; experiences in OSS Detachment 101; and being discharged in January 1946. He remembers his friends and the "Dixie Mission"; returning to school under the GI Bill; attending Harvard Business School as a graduate student; working for a life insurance company from 1954, for the next 32 years. He also details how he and fellow OSS veterans got involved in a U.S. government funded crop substitution program for the Kachins in Burma, in the late 1990s [Project Old Soldier].

OH 2565

Narrator: MUDRINICH, DANNY (b. 10/31/1920 – d. 7/25/2008)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: September 26, 1997
Location: unknown
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 01:49:45
Transcript: final; 29 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Danny Mudrinich, former member of the OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his life, specifically during his wartime involvement with the OSS. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with his birth in Minnesota; his immigrant parents from Yugoslavia; being raised in Wisconsin; and speaking Serbian in the home. He studied engineering for two years at University of Wisconsin; enlisted in Army in 1942; sent to Fort Benning to attend Officers' Candidate School; volunteered to go to Yugoslavia for the OSS; went by Liberty ships to Cairo, Egypt; changed his destination to OSS Detachment 101 in Burma; and then sent to Commander James Luce. Discusses experiences in OSS Detachment 101; post-war joined the CIA; worked for the CIA for 30+ years; discusses locations sent by CIA; describes different events that he was around during his CIA years; discusses his opinions about the native groups in Burma, the "bomb," Tito and Yugoslavia, and Ho Chi Minh.

OH 2566.1

Narrator: WARD, JIM (b. 1917)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: September 25, 1997
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 01:51:29
Transcript: final; 22 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Jim Ward, former member of the United States Detachment 101 during World War II. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his life, specifically, his wartime activity with the OSS. This interview was conducted as part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, Ward discusses his position as an officer in the 542nd Parachute Infantry before volunteering to join the OSS. He talks about training to go to France, before being assigned to Burma instead. He recalls arriving in Burma; flying into Naubum and organizing a Kachin company; and working with Merrill's Marauders. He recalls the difficulty in communicating with the Kachins before he learned the language; describes operations with the Kachins against the Japanese; talks about finding his headquarters had been shot up the day after D-Day and how he was able to boost the Kachins' morale by quickly coordinating a new drop of supplies. He discusses the rules of land warfare for guerrillas and compares the fighting merits of the Kachins with that of the Gurkhas; discusses operations with the MARS Task Force; and psychological operations against the Japanese.

OH 2566.2

Narrator: WARD, JIM (b. 1917)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: September 27, 1997
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 00:41:49
Transcript: final; 11 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Jim Ward, former member of the United States Detachment 101 during World War II. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his life, specifically, his wartime activity with the OSS. This interview was conducted as part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Ward discusses his Irish ancestry and growing up in Massachusetts; joining the military in 1942, after hearing that Pearl Harbor was attacked; and training as a paratrooper and being in the 542nd Parachute Infantry Regiment before joining the OSS. He talked about his post World War II work with the US Foreign Service in Malaya and Burma and in Vietnam as an expert in guerrilla warfare. He discussed all facets of the Phoenix Program and why it was created; the Chieu Hoi Program and other various programs and techniques used in the Vietnam War. Ward discussed where he was when he learned Hiroshima was bombed; briefly recalled his interactions with Julia Child (née McWilliams) when they both served in the OSS; and lastly, he talked about training for triathlons and becoming the oldest Ironman finisher.

OH 2567

Narrator: NIEMCZYK, JULIAN MARTIN (d. 9/16/2009)
Interviewer: Hedi Vion
Date: September 25, 1997
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 01:38:36
Transcript: final, 21 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history with United States Ambassador Julian Martin Niemczyk, former member of the OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his wartime experience with the OSS. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with his formative years in Fort Sill Oklahoma; playing violin, clarinet, and tenor saxophone; his attendance at Oklahoma University; Officers' Candidate School in Fort Sill; and volunteering for the OSS. Describes experiences in the OSS; experiences in OSS Detachment 101; how he was deployed to Kunming, China near the end of the war and then to Canton, China; accepted surrender of a Japanese officer; and served 31 years in the military. Offers opinions on the Chinese, Kachins, and other native groups; describes the mission and duties of the Office of Coordinator of Native Affairs; discusses the friendships forged in Burma; his relationship with Father Stuart; subsequent marriage to his wife, Peggy; his working for the CIA for four years, the National Security Council, and attaché in various embassies around the world. Discusses his organization, People to People; working with the National Republican Committee for eight years; his selection as US Ambassador to a united Czechoslovakia in 1986; his explanation of some of the diplomatic terms.

OH 2952

Narrator: STORM, LEE (b. 1921)
Interviewers: Gail Gutierrez and Heidi Vion
Date: September 27, 2001
Location: Atlanta, Georgia
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 01:03:31
Transcript: final, 28 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Lee Storm, former member of the OSS Detachment 101. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his wartime activity with the OSS. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Storm mentions his early life in Missouri; attending University of Missouri and graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering; entering the military and being commissioned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Storm talks about volunteering for OSS; training at Congressional Country Club outside Washington D.C., and then to Toyon Bay on Catalina Island for more intensive survival training. Storm recalls being sent up to Nazira, then to Ledo shortly after arrival because of appendicitis. He talks about his Burma experience in Lashio with Colonel Peers; discusses thoughts about the Nagas and the Kachins; Colonel Peers.

OH 2953

Narrator: RICHTER, ALLEN R. (b. 6/16/1916 – d. 4/9/2019)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion and Gail Gutierrez
Date: September 30, 2001
Location: Atlanta, Georgia
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 01:09:24 (**RESTRICTED AUDIO**)
Transcript: final; 23 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Allen R. Richter, former member of the OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his wartime experiences with the OSS. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with Richter's birth in Davenport, Iowa, his involvement in broadcast business before World War II; drafted in the second wave of the draft; recruited by Carl Eifler and John Coughlin for OSS Detachment 101; one of the original members of OSS Detachment 101; his invention of lightweight radio used in the OSS Detachment 101 missions; his thoughts on Carl Eifler, Ray Peers, John Coughlin, Gurkha Rifles, Kachins, Shans, Nagas, Stilwell, Chang Kai Shek, the CIA, and Special Forces; describes his closest friendships; his reasons for developing the Citation of Military Assistance (CMA); discusses his feelings about Hiroshima and Pearl Harbor; his post-war jobs.

OH 2954

Narrator: TRECHTER, OLIVER (b. 7/10/1923 – d. 5/26/2016)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: September 30, 2001
Location: Atlanta, Georgia
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 01:18:13
Transcript: final; 18 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Oliver Trechter, former member of the OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his wartime experiences with the OSS. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, Trechter discusses his father's career in the army and serving in both World Wars. He describes moving around a lot as a child; studying aeronautical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; enlisting in the Reserve after the attack on Pearl Harbor and entering the service in 1943. Trechter discusses being stationed at Fort Hunter Liggett and assigned to the 98th Light Infantry Division; talks about volunteering for a hazardous mission and being selected, which ended up being the OSS. He speaks about training and survival skills exercises on Catalina Island; then travelling by boat with stops in Australia and India before moving on to Burma. He talks about taking over Company E for a period of months, and military operations against the Japanese, including fire fights in Lawksawk and Hsenwei. Trechter shares his opinions of the Kachins, the Shans, and the Chinese, and of his commanding officer, Colonel William Ray Peers. He talks about receiving a medical discharge from the service for a detached retina, and undergoing eye surgery, and lastly, discusses his reaction and thoughts on the events of September 11, 2001.

OH 2955

Narrator: HOFFMAN, JOHN
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: September 29, 2001
Location: Atlanta, Georgia
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 01:09:56
Transcript: final, 20 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history with John Hoffman, former member of the OSS Detachment 101 during World War II. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his wartime experiences with the OSS. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Hoffman briefly talks about growing up in Wisconsin and attendance at Lake Forest College in Illinois until he was drafted in 1942 and sent to 9th Armored Division followed by Army Specialized Training at the University of Wisconsin. He talks about joining the OSS in late 1944; training in Quantico, Virginia, then transferring to England where he built radio antennas and towers; relocating to Burma to build a transmitting station at Bhamo. Describes the military point system; the "Hump" location; relocation to transient camp with the OSS Detachment 202; and post-war employment as plant manager for Celotex, in Port Clinton, Ohio from 1953-1981.

OH 2980.1; 2980.3

Narrator: EIFLER, CARL (b. 6/27/1906 – d. 4/8/2002)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: August 20, 1995; December 26, 2001
Location: Salinas, California
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio format: digital
Length: 01:18:55; 01:33:45 (**RESTRICTED**)
Transcript: final; 33 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history of Colonel Carl Eifler, the first commanding officer of OSS Detachment 101. The purpose of this interview was to gather information on his experiences and perspectives in OSS Detachment 101. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. Specifically, this interview deals with Colonel Eifler's early career as a Customs officer and his time in the Army reserves; his invitation to lead OSS Detachment 101 and how he filled the positions in the unit; his meeting with General Stilwell in China; his pet bear cub and its disappearance; the operations he participated in and how one of those operations caused his head injury; his various military awards and honors; and finally, his life after World War II including his earning of his Ph.D. in Psychology and his M.A. in Theology.

OH 3624

Narrator: CHILD, JULIA (b. 8/15/1912 – d. 8/13/2004)
Interviewer: Heidi Vion
Date: 1997
Location: Telephone interview at Julia Child's residence in Santa Barbara, CA
Language: English
Project: OSS in World War II
Audio Format: digital
Length: 00:31:01
Transcript: final; 13 pages
Ephemera: none

Abstract:

An oral history with Julia Child. The purpose of this interview was to collect information regarding Child's experiences working for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II. This interview is part of Heidi Vion's master's thesis project. The interview briefly discusses Child's youth and education in Pasadena, California and her college years in Massachusetts. She discusses beginning her career path as a writer and later working as a typist for the OSS in World War II, where she met her husband, Paul Child. She briefly talks about her experiences in India, Ceylon [now Sri Lanka], and China; shares her thoughts on General Stilwell, as well as Jane Foster [Zlatovski], her colleague in the OSS. Lastly, Child discusses how she became interested in cooking while living in France, and briefly shares her thoughts on her biography, *Appetite for Life*.