

Mr. Arthur Lord
July 25, 1973

Interview ____, Tape 1. Track 1.

Mr. Specht: Where were you born, Mr. Lord?

Mr. Lord: Well, I was born on Lulu Island in 1897.

Mr. Specht: Was your father a farmer?

Mr. Lord: No, he was in the canning business, salmon canning.

Mr. Specht: Was that near Steveston?

Mr. Lord: Yes, very close. That's where the cannery was.

It was only about half a mile over away from the house where I was born.

Mr. Specht: How long had your family been in British Columbia?

Mr. Lord: Well, my father came here in '81 from Seattle.

Mr. Specht: Is your family of American background.

Mr. Lord: My father, yes, but my mother came here just after the turn of the century from Ontario. They were fourth generation Canadian at that time.

Mr. Specht: Where did you grow up then? On Lulu Island or in Vancouver?

Mr. Lord: Oh, I don't remember Lulu Island. I was only a few months old when we moved into Vancouver. The first place I remember living in Vancouver is on Howe Street, the 800 block there. Now the parking lot for the Grosvenor Hotel is where our house used to be.

Mr. Specht: At that time, the area was residential?

Mr. Lord: Oh yes.

Mr. Specht: Did your father quit the canning business?

Mr. Lord: Oh no. He kept on 'til he died or he retired and then he died when he was 78.

Mr. Specht: You went to high school in Vancouver, then?

Mr. Lord: Yes, I went to King Edward High School.

Mr. Specht: Where was King Edward located?

Mr. Lord: It was the one that burned down, just the other day.

Mr. Specht: Right next to the Fairview site?

Mr. Lord: Yes, more latterly that was the campus for the regional college. But it used to be called King Edward High School. I've never heard it called Fairview Campus though.

Mr. Specht: You joined high school cadets, didn't you?

Mr. Lord: Yes.

Mr. Specht: What year did you join the cadets?

Mr. Lord: 1912.

Mr. Specht: 1912?

Mr. Lord: Or 1911, I guess. It had been going for several years. We had a group of about 60 cadets, officers, one or two senior officers. One of the ones was Captain Davy who was one of the teachers at King Edward.

Mr. Specht: Did the cadets correspond to the Sea Cadets or Air Cadets or Army Cadets today?

Mr. Lord: I suppose you could compare them to that.

Mr. Specht: There was no compulsory military obligation or anything like that?

Mr. Lord: Oh no.

Mr. Specht: Did you have uniforms?

Mr. Lord: Oh yes, very smart. There were leggings, leather leggings. They were grey uniforms with trimmings of green. I've got pictures of it around somewhere.

Mr. Specht: What kind of training did you have as a cadet?

Mr. Lord: Discipline was drilled into us and that was mostly drill and shooting practise. There were certain places where we had rifle ranges. In 1912 we went down on a trip to Australia with the Cadet Corps.

Mr. Specht: How did that come about?

Mr. Lord: Well there was a group called the Young Australian League, Y.A.L. from Western Australia. Their motto is 'Education By Travel'. They had been taking trips to various parts of the world, mostly to Great Britain. They had a band, a very good band. Their ages would be 14 to 18 or 19 and mostly of the younger age. On their way back to Australia once they came through Vancouver. That was in 1910. We as Cadets were asked to billet them while they were here. We had two of them staying in our house on Tenth Avenue right by King Edward High School. They issued an invitation at that time for us to come down and pay them a visit. Two years later we went down. "Education by Travel" is really a good thing.

Mr. Specht: Which city in Australia were you in?

Mr. Lord: Oh well, we were 5½ months on that tour altogether. We touched at New Zealand. It took us almost a month to get to Australia by boat, you see. We stopped at Aukland on our way over to Sydney. We were at Sydney for a few days, then Melbourne. We went to all the states of Australia except Queensland. Spent a month in Western Australia.

Mr. Specht: Was this as a Corps?

Mr. Lord: Yes, as a Corps. We had some good lads who would be entertainers. We used to put on a display of drill. We went on a very rigourous course of training as soldiers in

drill. We used to troop to colours and things of that kind. We had a gym squad that could entertain when we were having concerts with the band. We had a trumpet band, not all the musical instruments, just the trumpets with the drums.

Mr. Specht: How was your reception in Australia?

Mr. Lord: Quite good except in New South Wales and Sydney, they didn't know who we were....(chuckles). A bit of lack of communication there for a while. But we overdid it, I thought for a while. We were entertained by all the governments of the various states we went to. Western Australia, where the invitation came from really had been hearing stories about our being neglected. So they had signs up and banners: "The West will make amends." (laughing) We had a lovely time. Then we went down to Tasmania....for about a week and then by boat across again over to New Zealand. We went to the southern tip of New Zealand and spent a month in New Zealand.

Mr. Specht: Perth is the major city in Western Australia?

Mr. Lord: That's right.

Mr. Specht: Did you go by train across the desert?

Mr. Lord: There wasn't any cross country.....it hadn't been built then. No we had to go across the Australian Bight by ship. It was about a 4 day trip, I think.

Mr. Specht: Was Australia very much a frontier society at that time?

Mr. Lord: Well, Western Australia was just beginning to waken up, then. It's one of the fastest growing parts of Australia now with all its industries and its mines. It's

really a place for a young man to go to. Sydney, of course you'd hardly recognize. We were down again two years ago, my wife and I. Lots of the places we didn't recognize....of course there was 60 years between.

Mr. Specht: I guess that's a tremendous difference. Were there any people in the corps who you later had quite an association with? Colonel Letson, I beleive was with those cadets.

Mr. Lord: Yes, he was with us. I have two brothers who are still alive who were on that trip. We had a meeting marking our sixtieth anniversary of our arrival home from Australia just 2 years ago. Russell Richards was one. He's a lawyer in town. I don't think the other names would mean much to you. Martin Mathews, a lawyer and magistrate here, he's still going. But there are only 8 or 9 of ^{us} who are in the city. Letson sent a cable from either his Caribbean home or from Ottawa. I can't just remember. He was always very interested to keep in touch as he was with C.O.T.C.

Mr. Specht: Being in the high school cadets, were you thinking of a military career?

Mr. Lord: Oh no. I don't know why I joined really. A good bunch of boys and all good friends together. We had a wonderful time on that trip. I didn't know anything about the trip when I joined, of course.

Mr. Specht: What year did you finish high school?

Mr. Lord: '14.

Mr. Specht: 1914 and then did you enroll at the university?

Mr. Lord: Yes, I enrolled at the university and took my freshman year.

Mr. Specht: Did you join the C.O.T.C. when it formed on campus in 1914?

Mr. Lord: No, no, not in 1914 - It had just started up then and everybody was in the C.O.T.C. The university made it compulsory.

Mr. Specht: So when did you enlist?

Mr. Lord: I enlisted in '16.

Mr. Specht: So you had two years of university first?

Mr. Lord: Just one year.

Mr. Specht: One year?

Mr. Lord: I enlisted in the early part of '16.

Mr. Specht: Immediately did you join the Western Universities battalion?

Mr. Lord: Yes. The WUB's as we were called. The Western University Battalion. It was made up of the four western provinces...one company from each of the provinces, B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Mr. Specht: Do you know how that came about?

Mr. Lord: No, I'm not sure who got this bright idea.

Mr. Specht: What did you think of all university battalion at that time?

Mr. Lord: Well they weren't all university students.

Then anybody of a similar type....

Mr. Specht: Similar educational background.

Mr. Lord: Similar educational background. One man had two or three years of the university and he'd have a friend who'd want to come in and he maybe dropped out of high school or

something like that. So they took up quite a group there.

Mr. Specht: What training did you receive at the Vancouver campus before you went to Camp Hughes?

Mr. Lord: Well, I wasn't with them at that time. I couldn't get my parent's consent. My two brothers had been over and they'd both been wounded. I was 18 at that time and you were supposed to get your parent's consent.

That was in September of 1916.

Mr. Specht: Were you part of the 'D' Company then?

Mr. Lord: Yes.

Mr. Specht: So you trained as 'D' Company?

Mr. Lord: Yes, they went to Camp Hughes. They trained on what used to be called the 'University Shacks' area there, just by the General Hospital. The tents that they lived in were next door to the Centennial Building. There's a parking lot in there now. But there used to be a private ward pavilion but they tore that down and it's parking now. That's where the tents were. All that area was the training for the 196 'D' Company.

Mr. Specht: Did you live in the tents, yourself?

Mr. Lord: No. When I went to Camp Hughes that was my first taste of living in a tent. All the sand that would blow around there....it wasn't very comfortable...(chuckles).. It gets in your food and in your clothes. A lot of my friends were away on harvest leave. So harvest was being taken at about that time and they were short of labourers so they give

the boys harvest leave. But by November we left for England.

Mr. Specht: Going back a little bit to the campus, I think Dean Brock was the Major of the 'D' Company, wasn't he?

Mr. Lord: That's right.

Mr. Specht: What do you remember of him?

Mr. Lord: Oh he was a very strict disciplinarian. Of course as a young man you get more of a sense of that strictness than you do when you're more of an age. But he was pretty well, "Hail fellow, well met." You know? He was very popular. He went off to India.

Mr. Specht: Did you receive any drill or instruction directly from Major Brock?

Mr. Lord: Well he was the senior officer in charge of our company. He was also second in command of one of the battalions at Hope. So you'd never get any personal instruction except I remember one occasion. (chuckles) We had an awful job keeping clean there was so much dirt and sand around. On parade once and he was inspecting us. He was passing behind me and he stopped and he said, "Sergeant, take that man's name, he's got a dirty neck." (laughing) I got my name taken and I had to peel potatoes for a day or two as punishment.

Mr. Specht: Was that at camp Hughes?

Mr. Lord: At Camp Hughes, yes.

Mr. Specht: You had received some preliminary training before you went to Camp Hughes, hadn't you?

Mr. Lord: Oh yes. I'd had all that really in the cadet corps.

Mr. Specht: Oh yes.

Mr. Lord: That type of training was nothing new to me...marching

and ceremonial drills that you have.

Mr. Specht: What special training did you have? Was it strictly in infantry?

Mr. Lord: Yes. That's the only branch I was in.

Mr. Specht: Small arms, then?

Mr. Lord: PBI we called it. The Poor Bloody Infantry.

Mr. Specht: Did you have new experience with machine guns ?

Mr. Lord: No, no machine guns just the rifle. There was a machine gun section but I didn't go into that section. I did.

Mr. Specht: So you went to England, was it early 1917?

Mr. Lord: That was November 1916.

Mr. Specht: To seaford?

Mr. Lord: Yes, that was our camp. There were thousands and thousands of Canadian there. It was a Canadian gathering camp.

Mr. Specht: Did you receive additional training at Seaford?

Mr. Lord: Yes, I was in an officer's training corps for a while. A group of us started on this course for an officer's stripe but the Canadians had suffered pretty badly at the battle of the Somme and that whole thing was broken up when we were sent over to France.

Mr. Specht: You were sent over to reinforce the other contingents?

Mr. Lord: Yes.

Mr. Specht: What was your feeling when you were broken up? You weren't expecting to be broken up, were you?

Mr. Lord: Well we'd been given some warning that it might take place. A lot of battalions were broken up that year. A lot of the boys too, would want to go to the Air Force and some would want to go to some other type of service.

Mr. Specht: Was the 'D' Company or the 196th Battalion with a real sense of esprit as a battalion?

Mr. Lord: Oh, very much so. We used to have sports days and that sort of thing. There was rivalry between all the different companies.

Mr. Specht: I see. How did 'D' Company fare in the rivalry?

Mr. Lord: Pretty Well.

Mr. Specht: Held your own?

Mr. Lord: Oh yes.

Mr. Specht: Do you think the morale did suffer when you were broken up and sent to....

Mr. Lord: Well we all felt very disappointed about that of course. We were grumpy about it but it didn't take long to get over that.

Mr. Specht: Didn't you think it was a little bit reckless in a sense because if you put all the educated soldiers in one battalion....if you get in a section of the front where there was really heavy casualties....

Mr. Lord: Yes, a lot of good officer material would be wiped out at one time.

Mr. Specht: It really did kind of make sense to break up the battalion. Which unit were you attached to in France?

Mr. Lord: 12th Brigade.

Mr. Specht: 12th Brigade of the 46th Saskatchewan...?

Mr. Lord: Oh, I was attached to the 46th battalion and that was in the 12th brigade.

Mr. Specht: You took part in ^{the} Vimy Ridge Campaign.

Mr. Lord: Yes.

Mr. Specht: Was that the first action you saw?

Mr. Lord: Yes, that was the first real battle. We had been holding the Carry On Raids at Vimy Ridge for a few weeks before that. We went to France in February. I was in the trenches for five months after enlisting. We got there at the same time as the boys who'd been there a year before me. (chuckles) I was supposed to be a trained soldier.

Mr. Specht: Were you surprised ~~at~~ the way things were in the trenches?

Mr. Lord: Oh yes.

Mr. Specht: I wonder how you felt. What your impressions were.

Mr. Lord: I'll tell you my first impression under fire. We'd been sent up as a work party from our Chateau de la That's where our reinforcement group had gone to to the 46th. The officer who took us from Le Havre where we'd come across by boat see, then by boxcar to a certain area in France. Then there was an officer returning from leave who was supposed to take us to the Chateau de la and he lost his way! We were rather short of rations. We finally got to the Chateau and it was just a sea of mud in the parade ground part. We all had to be lined up and inspected. Major Beverly Rhodes who was a Vancouver man, he told us what to expect in the way of training and so on there. He also had a reputation as a strict disciplinarian. Then at 2 o'clock the next morning we were all wakened up with the guards batting our feet. We were all just dead tired with all this marching we'd done the day before. We were told, we were on a work party....go up

to the front line.

Mr. Specht: At 2 o'clock in the morning!

Mr. Lord: Yep. Well, we had to go at night you see. To get across to Vimy Ridge you had to avoid daylight because the lower part where you had to cross, duckwalks over the swampy bit were muddy and the trenches were under German fire all the time. Well, we got to work with shovels and started shoveling stuff that had been blown down into the trenches by the trench mortar. All of a sudden there was a tremendous rain of trench mortars on us. I thought, well, this is what war is, I guess we'll have to expect this. Just then another 4 or 5 came. See, leading from the trench down there was the dug-out. The sergeant of the regulars who was there stationed with the battalion pulled the sack aside, stuck his head out and said, "What the Hell you fellows sticking out there for? Get in here quick before there's another. After this stay in there 'til this is all over." We slid^down where there was quite a big open space there.

Mr. Specht: Did you have any idea what it would be like before you arrived at the front?

Mr. Lord: No, you can't tell anybody what it's going to be like.

Mr. Specht: Did you have to hear about the number of casualties and things like that?

Mr. Lord: Oh yes.

Mr. Specht: Did you just kind of accept it as necessary?

Mr. Lord: Yes, that's war. We accepted it. I think I was probably a bit fatalistic about it myself. If I'm going to get it, I'm going to get it and that's it.

Mr. Specht: How did you view the war when you were 18 or 19 years old? Did you view it as something necessary?

Mr. Lord: Yes, I did. I felt it was necessary because Canada was in it so deep already. Of course we were fed propaganda about the dirty Germans and that sort of thing. But they were fed propaganda about the dirty Canadians...(chuckles).

Mr. Specht: Did you have an conception of the Vimy Ridge campaign?

Mr. Lord: Oh yes, we knew the attack was going to take place because we'd been training. We had tapes set out on the ground way behind the lines for training. You'd have time up in the trenches, say four, five or six days and then you'd go out just for a rest. Then you did more work back there than you did in the trenches. That's what we were doing for a few weeks beforehand is going over this. It was mostly to get the officers so they would be familiar with the war of the trenches as we had them outlined. They had pictures and pictures and pictures of the German trenches. After we had got to our objective, where were we going from there? From these tapes we were supposed to know where to go.

Mr. Specht: This was a very thorough preparation then, wasn't it?

Mr. Lord: Oh yes, very thorough.

Mr. Specht: So, as a private in the infantry, you would have known pretty well what you were supposed to do then when the campaign commenced?

Mr. Lord: You mean when Vimy started?

Mr. Specht: Yes.

Mr. Lord: Well we had the general idea. As a matter of fact I didn't go over on the 9th of April. Our particular company was held in reserve on what we called the pimple of Vimy Ridge and held up the Germans. We were out there on sort of a peninsula and they had to be dislodged. On the morning of the 12th we went around from our deep dug outs, through a snow storm and mud and took our positions for the attack. We were about an hour out there before the barrage started. We laid down a very, very heavy barrage for protection. Then the officers were supposed to take us on. Well, the ground was all pock marked with shell holes and I was in charge of a bombing squad with rifle grenades and bombs. We hadn't gone more than about 50 yards when we'd lost most of them. Some were casualties and some had gone around the side of the shell holes. I couldn't find them. I couldn't find my officer. That all cleared up the following day when the Germans were driven back and I found my own battalion. So that's the difficulty with that kind of warfare.

End of track I

Mr. Arthur Lord
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Interview ___, Tape 1, Track 2.

Mr. Specht: So it was the second day of the campaign before you got organized? Did you continue to drive up to the ridge then?

Mr. Lord: Well, then we consolidated our position. Then we were taken back for a rest and we had reinforcements come in and take our places. We went back to rest camp. But our battalion came out of Vimy about a company strong instead of four companies strong. Quite a few casualties.

Mr. Specht: It was a very successful campaign though, wasn't it?

Mr. Lord: Vimy Ridge? Very successful.

Mr. Specht: One military historian, I think it was Stacey said that it was the one campaign where by describing the battle and what actually took place, you'd also be describing the plans of the battle. It was almost clockwork in that sense.

Mr. Lord: Yes....of course I didn't know much about that, being a private. I've read lots of stories about it since. It was one of the best planned battles of the whole war. It was so thorough.

Mr. Specht: Were you in that sector very long?

Mr. Lord: No, I was wounded on the first of June.

Mr. Specht: This was after Vimy. Were you still holding that sector then?

Mr. Lord: Yes, there was a triangle there that was held for quite a while before there was any further advance. We had

to consolodate. We didn't follow through very far just 4 or 5 miles I think. We were holding railway banks there outside the city of We were only a company strong but we were told when we went in to hold that line. I don't think the Germans would very likely counter attack anyhow. But a squad of the Imperial Army gas men came along, what we used to call the hit and run squad. They'd let off a few bombs, gas bombs over our heads and onto the Germans beyond and then they'd beat it. Then we'd take all the stuff that came back as retaliation. Well it was coming back pretty strong. That's when I got mine.

Mr. SPECHT: What schrapnel?

Mr. Lord: We used to call it ^{minnenherfer} huge trench mortar, three or four feet high. It was set off from just behind their line. You could see it going up and then it would start to come down. You had to wait 'til it started to come down to see where it was going to land and try and get the best cover. One of these had my name and number all over it. I started to run for the communications trench. It was close by there. You could get in there and lie flat and the schrapnel would go over you. But I didn't get there in time. A piece of schrapnel came and got me.

Mr. Specht: So where did you convalesce?

Mr. Lord: Well I was six weeks.....they weren't expecting me to pull through because the schrapnel had gone through my liver. Didn't expect me to live....but it was six weeks before they moved me to France and then from there I went over to England and went up to Bay in Kent to convalesce there. I was

in hospital for six months.

Mr. Specht: There was no question of you going back to the front?

Mr. Lord: Oh no. I got home in March of 18 before the Armistice.

Mr. Specht: Were you discharged right away?

Mr. Lord: Yes.

Mr. Specht: After the war, I wonder how you felt about it?

Did you feel that the war was one to end all wars?

Mr. Lord:make the world safe for democracy and all that.

Well we had a nice long period there between the wars. 20

Years, wasn't it before the rumblings started again?

Mr. Specht: Right. What did you feel like as a young man, right after the war in 1918, 1919?

Mr. Lord: Oh, I just felt that that's all over. I ~~don't~~ didn't want any thing more to do with army again. I had to face my university I had three years to go. I always had the idea I wanted to come through law. That's what I did. I finished university and then articulated as a student. I always felt that I had done my bit and we just hoped that there wasn't going to be another war.

Mr. Specht: Did you think about International affairs or politics at the time? League of Nations?

Mr. Lord: Yes the League of Nations. We were all very glad to see the League of Nations get going as we were all glad to see the United Nations get going this time. But the League of Nations was just as much of a sad disappointment as this one is...and more. It finally went out of existence. It had no teeth at all.

Mr. Specht: What about the campus during the war years...
do you remember President Westbrook at all?

Mr. Lord: Oh yes.

Mr. Specht: What was your impression of him?

Mr. Lord: Oh he was a very, very fine man. I was on the students council when he came. I was only a freshman but they didn't have much of a constitution and freshmen were the largest body so they thought they should have a representative on the students council. I was asked to stand for election and I was elected. As such, I met with him quite a bit. He was a very fine man.

Mr. Specht: Were there any professors that had a particular influence on you?

Mr. Lord: I don't know of one more than another. We were at the university at the best of times because there was a small student body and an awfully good faculty. We were all friends. We knew each other. We'd go and see them and discuss matters, that sort of thing. You can't do that these days because you just haven't time to give to it. As I say those were the best times of the university for getting a real all round education and speaking to men who after all some of them weren't very much older than we were as students. Some of them were probably only 7 or 8 years older than we were. Freddy Wood, for instance.....I joined the Players Club and he was one that I feel awfully glad that I knew. We're still great personal friends. Freddy Soward, for instance.. most of them are gone now. Harry Logan's gone and he was very active. Mack East^{man}~~wood~~s gone and oh, there's so many of them.

Mr. Specht: You were very active in drama yourself. You liked it very much.

Mr. Lord: Yes.....yes I liked it.

Mr. Specht: Do you know why C.O.T.C. was abandoned right after the war. After the Armistice it pretty well shut down. I wonder why.

Mr. Lord: Well, I knew I didn't want it to go ^{with} Harry Letson was very anxious to keep it going. He was a professor there at that time. But I think most of the boys and returned men just said, "To heck with it. I don't want any more of it.. military training. I've had enough and I don't think it's necessary." Now we'd made the world safe...(chuckles)..from any further wars. I get that attitude a bit. I certainly felt that I didn't want to spend any more time in the Army or on military training. There was one indication of it when the..... You know those buildings there where the university used to be at the General Hospital. There was one that was a T.B. wing for a long time. That was our Arts building. The library was in there too. Harry Letson had his C.O.T.C. group out on the campus there just in front of this building. He was doing some drilling. One of the students, His name was Well, Jack Weld. He's still alive too. He got up on the roof of this building and got a hose and turned the hose on the C.O.T.C. (laughing).... We had a student court at that time and Jack was brought up. I forget what the charge was against him but he was fined 10 dollars. The rest of the students had a tag day and raised enough to pay his fine for him. (chuckles)

Mr. Specht: Oh really! That indicated that the students were sympathetic to him.

Mr. Lord: Yes, some of them....a good many of them, yes.

Of course we all treated it as a joke except some of the members of the C.O.T.C.

Mr. Specht: In the U.B.C. Alumni Chronicle there was a statement that there was a lack of discipline in the corps. This was probably 1918. No funds and there weren't any proper grounds or drill and the equipment was poor and things like that.

Mr. Lord: Yes, that could be. We had no place if they did want to build the corps up again. I don't know where they were going to drill. They might have been able to use the old drill hall down on Beatty Street for something like that. I know when I was with the C.O.T.C. before I went overseas we used to do our drilling in an old warehouse down on Hamilton. This was in the bad weather and we were given lectures in there. But there was no place around there that was available for cadet training.

Mr. Specht: That was possibly part of the reason why the corps was disbanded too. Facilities were very poor.

Mr. Lord: Lack of interest and facilities weren't there. There was no money. We couldn't persuade anybody that money should be spent on training soldiers any more.

Mr. Specht: Was Dean Brock who had been in command of the 'D' Company trying to keep the Corps going at that time?

Mr. Lord: He stopped being connected with the C.O.T.C. except for when it was being formed to go overseas.

Mr. Specht: I see. What year did you graduate from U.B.C.?

Mr. Lord: '21.

Mr. Specht: 1921. What did you graduate in?

Mr. Lord: Arts. I got a B.A. and my wife graduated in the same year. Then I went into law and articulated to a lawyer here in Vancouver. I was called to the bar in 1924.

Mr. Specht: You didn't have to go to law school then?

Mr. Lord: Well, there was a school such as it was....called a law school. You had to attend lectures and lectures were given by members of the bar and the judges. You had to pass examinations, three examinations. What they called the first intermediate and second intermediate and the final intermediate. I went back to Osgoode Hall for my final year just because of the special training you could get back there.

Mr. Specht: I see. When did you come back to Vancouver and resume practise?

Mr. Lord: That was in 1924. I went to Osgoode in 1922 - '23. I came back here in '24 and got called to the bar. I wrote my final exams, was called to the bar and went up to City Hall right away. I didn't put out my own shingle at any time.

Mr. Specht: You were always associated with the city, weren't you?

Mr. Lord: Yes, I used to say that I was the only one ever appointed a judge who'd only had one client in his whole career. (chuckles) That was the city of Vancouver.

Mr. Specht: You were elected to the U.B.C. Senate in 1924.

Mr. Lord: Yes.

Mr. Specht: Can you tell me how that came about?

Mr. Lord: Oh well, I'd always been interested. I'd been on the students council for three different years and president of the Alma Mater Society in my final year. I was always interested and still am very much interested in the University and its functions, administration and so on. Sherwood Lett, he and I thought it was time some students were on the senate, some early graduates. So we both ran and we both were elected. We were the first students, I think...on the Senate. But I can't say that for sure.

Mr. Specht: How long were you on the SEnate?

Mr. Lord: 36 years, I guess. Let's see.....1924 to 1960.

Mr. Specht: Did you participate in any way in the great trek?

Mr. Lord: No, I was back in Osgoode Hall at that time.

Mr. Specht: How did you feel about the new campus coming about? The move to Point Grey....

Mr. Lord: Oh, wonderful. We'd all been working for that wondering when the day would come. We knew very well that by the time we graduated it couldn't be done.....but that was always in the background of everybody's mind. They had a good group there in 1922, 1923 with Ab Richards and Jack Elyne and several others. They really organized the thing and got it going.

Mr. Specht: Do you remember Geoffrey Riddehough? He was a student on campus.

Mr. Lord: He was also in C.O.T.C.

Mr. Specht: In 1923 there was an affair on campus regarding a visiting poet from Englands, Sir Henry Newbolt. Do you have an recolleciton of that?

Mr. Lord: I remember the name. Was there some particular matter...?

Mr. Specht: Yes he was a very strong jingoist and very much... England was the best nation at making war.....a very patriotic poet. Students on campus at the time objected to his feelings at the time.

Mr. Lord: No, I don't remember that. What year was it?

Mr. Specht: 1923. It ended up that some of the Ubysey staff resigned over the issue. C.O.T.C. Started to reform in about 1927 when some students got together and decided that they wanted to try and get the corps going again. I think in 1928....

Mr. Lord: Yes, it started up in 1928. Harry Logan was very active in that.

Mr. Specht: Would you like to give your version of how it was reorganized and why it was?

Mr. Lord: I wasn't there, you see.

Mr. Specht: But you were on the Senate then?

Mr. Lord: Yes.

Mr. Specht: There was quite a bit of opposition to it.

Mr. Lord: Oh yes. Som^e opposition from the families of students. They thought it was going to be compulsory. But it wasn't going to be compulsory. Some of the parents would say, "I don't want my son brought up to be cannon fodder. There's no need for it. It only gives them a military mind. They wouldn't do anything to try and prevent a war, they'd be glad of the opportunity of getting into one." Oh yes, I remember that rather faintly but it didn't have much effect as in the end it got going.

Mr. Specht: Also 1928 wasn't a time when there was a great deal of international tension. I wonder why it started up at that point.

Mr. Lord: I don't know. It's a good question. Harry Logan might have had something to say about that. I think he was very active in its reformation.

Mr. Specht: Yes, he was the first commanding officer when it was reformed. Do you remember what Dean Brock's attitude was?

Mr. Lord: No, I don't.

Mr. Specht: What about President Klinck?

Mr. Lord: I don't think he had any objection. I think the main thing, here again, was finance. How were they to get the uniforms? Of course there was lots of room out there for drill and that sort of thing. They used the main Arts building, that's still standing, for lectures and below that there was a rifle range.

Mr. Specht: You were on the Senate at the time it was being reformed and one of the objections to the C.O.T.C. being reorganized on campus was that this would mean that there was an outside influence on student affairs. In other word the military would be able to have some influence in what went on on campus. The Senate was involved in this, I believe because it came up with a sort of a compromise. They set up a military committee. Do you remember that? A committee which was composed of university people and the commanding officer to act as a cushion between the military and the university. You were on the Senate at the time.

Mr. Lord: Yes, I was. But I don't remember that.

Mr. Specht: What did you think of the corps at the time?

Were you in favour of it reforming?

Mr. Lord: Yes, yes I was. They had enough of the boys who really wanted it. It's good training, you know for anybody. I think a lot of the young people in recent years would have been far better for a bit of military discipline. Of course maybe I'm a bit stretched on that myself. I like that type of discipline. I think it's necessary.

Mr. Specht: After the war you were fed up with any more military environment...I guess you must have changed over the 1920's and started to feel that there was a place for it on campus.

Mr. Lord: Oh, it might have been something like that. I just knew that as far as myself was concerned, I didn't want to have any more. I had done all I wanted along that line and I had other things to do. I certainly had no objection at all to the formation of the C.O.T.C. I thought it was a good thing.

Mr. Specht: Did you do anything at the time or shortly after to further the cause of the C.O.T.C.?

Mr. Lord: When the Second War started, Shrum asked me if I'd come and join the C.O.T.C. there because they wanted somebody who'd had experience in the last war to be helpful. I took a course and became a 'one pip wonder'....along with several others. That's how I got back into C.O.T.C.

Mr. Specht: Back in 1928, did you meet Col. Logan?

Mr. Lord: Yes.

Mr. Specht: What was your impression of him?

Mr. Lord: Oh well, I'd known him as a personal friend for many years. I had great admiration and respect for him. He's done a great deal for the university.

Mr. Specht: He was succeeded by Col. Letson. About a year after he became the Commanding officer, Harry Letson took over. Do you remember how that came about? Was there a difference between Col. Letson and Col. Logan though? I know you weren't personally involved in the corps at the time but how would you imagine they'd have a different approach to being Commanding Officer?

Mr. Lord: I don't know. I know both men very well. Harry Letson was on that Cadet trip to Australia too. I'm not sure how they matched up as it were, as Commanding Officer of the C.O.T.C. Harry Logan had more of a gentle nature than Harry Letson. Harry'd be the boss-man and he'd let it be known in no uncertain terms. Harry's approach would be a bit milder.

Mr. Specht: Do you remember any of the other officers of the corps in its formative years?

Mr. Lord: You mean during this last war?

Mr. Specht: No, in the prewar years....Pollock, Stacey? Col. Letson wasn't part of the university faculty, though, was he?

Mr. Lord: Yes, he taught mechanical engineering.

Mr. Specht: Mechanical engineering eh? Do you remember when the corps got underway, it was in the basement of the Arts building.

Mr. Lord: Yes.

Mr. Specht: Did you ever go down there yourself and look at their facilities?

Mr. Lord: No, not while the cadet corps was there as the C.O.T.C., no. I saw plenty of them after the second war started.

Mr. Specht: When the depression took place, this effected the campus as well as the C.O.T.C.

Mr. Lord: Oh, it did.

Mr. Specht: Would you like to talk a little bit about the impact that the depression had on U.B.C.?

Mr. Lord: Oh goodness, that was awful. Our whole budget was cut. Harry Logan talked about that in Tuum Est. He describes all the details in that. It was pretty bad. Some of the professors had to be let out and everybody got severe cuts in salary. It was a very, very trying time.

Mr. Specht: How about conditions in the city generally?

Mr. Lord: Very bad. It was the same thing.

Mr. Specht: You were solicitor-general at this time, weren't you? During the depression....

Mr. Lord: City Solicitor, you mean?

Mr. Specht: Yes.

Mr. Lord: Yes, I took the city hall at that time. I took a severe cut too along with everybody else. The only trouble was to get it back again later.

Mr. Specht: Regarding the C.O.T.C. again, there was a really strong anti-war movement on campus. Do you remember anything of this? It was about 1933, '34, '35. Those were the high point years.

Mr. Lord: Well, I remember there was some opposition at that time to the operations of the C.O.T.C. But I don't know that it was very strong. It's not as though they were holding meetings

like they've been holding out here in the last five or six years. Oh no, I don't think there were demonstrations of that kind.

Mr. Specht: In the Ubysey it was reported that there was one vote on behalf of the students who were concerned. Now, this wasn't a very large percentage of the student body but quite a strong majority of the people at this meeting voted to abolish the C.O.T.C. I'm not sure if that indicates how strong the feeling was on campus or not.

Mr. Lord: I knew that there was that feeling, of course but it finally passed and the C.O.T.C. kept up and they had the nucleus of it when the war came along.

End of Tape 1 Track 2.