

**The National Museum of the Pacific War
(Admiral Nimitz Museum)**

**Center for Pacific War Studies
Fredericksburg, Texas**

**An Interview With
Doreen G. Underwood
English Native
English Military 8/1940
Staff Headquarters
England, France, Germany
September 16, 2003**

Mr. Misenhimer

My name is Richard Misenhimer and today September 16, 2003. I am interviewing Mrs. Doreen G. Underwood, 332 Dry Avenue; Cary, North Carolina 27511. Her phone number is (919) 467-1928. This interview is taking place by telephone. This interview is in support of the National Museum of Pacific War, Center for Pacific War Studies, for the preservation of historical information related to World War II. Mrs. Underwood, I want to thank you for taking time to do this interview today. Agreement read. Is that satisfactory with you?

Mrs. Underwood

Yes, I guess so.

Mr. Misenhimer

Let me start by asking you, where were you born?

Mrs. Underwood

I was born in England.

Mr. Misenhimer

In what part of England, where?

Mrs. Under

Middlesex. It's outside London.

Mr. Misenhimer

What is your birth date?

Mrs. Underwood

9-8-20.

Mr. Misenhimer

September 8, 1920?

Mrs. Underwood

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were your parents' names?

Mrs. Underwood

You mean maiden name?

Mr. Misenhimer

Well, just their first names or whatever.

Mrs. Underwood

Queeny Goodall and William Edward Goodall.

Mr. Misenhimer

And where did you go to school?

Mrs. Underwood

I went to a private school in England. It was a girls' school, a boarding school but it was near my home so I was a pay girl in an all girls' school.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was your last year there?

Mrs. Underwood

'37 or '38.

Mr. Misenhimer

1938?

Mrs. Underwood

Something like that.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you finished school, what did you do then?

Mrs. Underwood

I went to technical college, a school of art. I studied fashion design.

Mr. Misenhimer

How long did that last?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, you know we declared war in 1939 in England and so after that started fashion design seemed pretty ridiculous (laughing) and I took a secretarial course. And I was there in art school about 18 months I guess when the war just knocked everybody.

Mr. Misenhimer

I think it was September the 3rd in '39 when the war was declared. What reaction did you have when you heard that war had been declared?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, it was kind of funny really because it so happened that we had an alarm, sirens going off about a half an hour after that and we thought we were really going to get bombed. But it turned out that there was a false alarm. There were people flying back home from France and they went to put the alarms up in the building. But it was kind of funny cause we felt like we were in it from the minute.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you actually enter the Service?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, I can't say. I took the secretarial course and lets see, the end of 1939 was when I joined the ATS, Auxiliary Territorial Service, the women's branch.

Mr. Misenhimer

What kind of a uniform did you wear then or what?

Mrs. Underwood

I don't know. (laughing) It was a military uniform.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was it similar to what the soldiers wore?

Mrs. Underwood

Somewhat, yes. We wore skirts. We didn't wear pants.

Mr. Misenhimer

What color was it?

Mrs. Underwood

Khaki. They're military uniform.

Mr. Misenhimer

Do you have the exact date you went in?

Mrs. Underwood

It must've been the end of August of '40.

Mr. Misenhimer

August of '40.

Mrs. Underwood

Yes, because it was just before my birthday.

Mr. Misenhimer

So the war had been going on almost a year when you went in.

Mrs. Underwood

Pretty much there, yes. And it felt fine. Everybody were volunteers, we weren't drafted. But everybody in England was doing something useful towards the war and I volunteered to go into the ATS. And at that time, it was pretty new so you could pretty much choose where you went. I went into the A Corps, which is an Army, British Army that dealt with the accounts of the British soldiers. Really there were two things you could do: you could either deal with food and garbage or you could be in the clerical. I chose the clerical.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have any kind of basic training when you first went in, anything like that?

Mrs. Underwood

Oh, yeah, we spent 3 weeks down on the south coast of England and had to do all this marching. (laughing)

Mr. Misenhimer

Any kind of weapons training?

Mrs. Underwood

No, I didn't use a weapon.

Mr. Misenhimer

No training on any either?

Mrs. Underwood

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then after that 3 weeks, where did you go?

Mrs. Underwood

That's when I went back...it was close to where I lived actually, but right after I got there, we moved up to London. So that put us in London all through the Blitz.

Mr. Misenhimer

And the Blitz started when?

Mrs. Underwood

I can't remember.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did it start before you went into the Service?

Mrs. Underwood

No, no. It started right after we got up to London. So it was probably the latter part of that same year.

Mr. Misenhimer

Towards the end of 1940.

Mrs. Underwood

Whenever the Blitz is recorded, we were in London about a week prior to that and then all hell broke loose, bomb every night. We were stationed in London at that time.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were stationed at what location there?

Mrs. Underwood

It was...I don't know if you know London at all. Do you?

Mr. Misenhimer

I've been there.

Mrs. Underwood

You know the Picadilly?

Mr. Misenhimer

Yes, uh, huh.

Mrs. Underwood

And we were in the Mayfair area we were billeted there. I guess they were luxury apartments or something, great big buildings that they commandeered and put officers in there.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you were in an office there in that area?

Mrs. Underwood

Yes, and then we got bombed one day and blew us out of that building and then we went to another building. And the building that I lived in got a bomb on it. It was the weekend when I wasn't there but we had to move out of there. Then I was billeted out with a friend where not in government housing but you got your living allowance that you could rent a room or something and we got bombed out of there.

Mr. Misenhimer

Goodness.

Mrs. Underwood

So that was three times. (laughing) But every night, the Germans came over and bombed us. It was an extraordinary time.

Mr. Misenhimer

Yes, and what did you have in the way of air raid shelters?

Mrs. Underwood

We didn't go to air raid shelters very often.

Mr. Misenhimer

You didn't, okay.

Mrs. Underwood

No because they came every night and we just gave up on that. Of course, there were shelters and a lot of Londoners that lived in the underground railroads. They lived down there, but we went a shelter they built, which I think was a night club. But we went down in there for a while but then we sort of gave up on that and left and

Mr. Misenhimer

So you were bombed, what, about every night then?

Mrs. Underwood

Yes, for a while, as long as the Blitz lasted.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did any of them come real close to you?

Mrs. Underwood

Pretty close, yes. There was one that blew the office building, it blew the first and second floor out completely from underneath where I was. In fact, I've got a picture of it somewhere. It was the first and second floors were blown away. And we had to go out another part. I wasn't hurt or anything, but I was completely covered in dust.

Mr. Misenhimer

This happened in the daytime or at night?

Mrs. Underwood

It was daytime.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you were at work when it happened then.

Mrs. Underwood

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were there people in that building that were killed in that then?

Mrs. Underwood

There were some people down on the ground floor killed that day. I had left my desk. I was back at the place where I kept the records. There were shards of glass. If I had been there, I had been badly cut up, but I had stepped out to go to the restroom. I was fortunate. No, I didn't have any cuts.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were some other things that happened to you there?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, I think that was basically it. There were bombs that hit places I was no longer in, but I happened to be away for the weekend or something like that.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you see any dogfights between the British planes and the Germans?

Mrs. Underwood

Oh, you could see that very well.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you see some German planes get shot down?

Mrs. Underwood

I did not see them shoot any down. The antiaircraft shrapnel was coming down because anything that goes up explodes and comes down.

Mr. Misenhimer

Oh, yes.

Mrs. Underwood

We had that going on around.

Mr. Misenhimer

All that shrapnel coming back down.

Mrs. Underwood

Right, right. It was really surprising the way the people reacted. The people were very resilient and they said if it didn't hit you, don't worry about it.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were some other things that happened?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, the buzz bombs started you know after the Blitz was over. But after that, I had changed jobs, but as far as bombs, we had buzz bombs. You've heard of those.

Mr. Misenhimer

Oh, yes.

Mrs. Underwood

If you could hear them coming, you didn't worry about them just before it hit, you know if we didn't hear it it was going to hit. But that blew up some houses that were close to mine. My aunt's house and we were all in there downstairs. You'd get in there for shelter it just blew curtains off the walls. And blew the doors open - stuff like that, but nobody got hurt, but it did blow a couple of houses up down the road.

Mr. Misenhimer

There was quite a few of those buzz bombs came over weren't there.

Mrs. Underwood

Oh, Lord, yes. Many of them.

Mr. Misenhimer

And then later on the V2s.

Mrs. Underwood

Well, I didn't experience those. I was in France and Germany.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were where?

Mrs. Underwood

In France and Germany. Let me explain this. Then I was out in the pay corps and things opened up in drafting a different job for that, but I was transferred to the drawing office then the British Armed Forces Head Quarter, which was near the Admiralty offices. But I was in that and that's where I started doing my drafting there. I worked on maps and models and things with all the high ranking officers. Then I was in there for quite a while and then of course, things went on for a while and then they were talking about this invasion. And then our headquarters was formed. And they took a nucleus from British

Armed Forces and I was one of those that went into what became Shaek. And that was, it was in London _____ north of _____. And that's where overlord the plan for the invasion of France. And I worked with the officers that actually planned it. I worked for the...you have to understand that headquarters were for the 50-50 British American, for every American, there was a British one. And if I worked in an office with three British men and three Americans. We did an awful lot of maps and things used to demonstrate bombs and that. It is all done by computer now, but not then.

Mr. Misenhimer

You did it by hand, right?

Mrs. Underwood

Yes, and it was very, very interesting because everything we did was top secret. It was before Eisenhower got there actually.

Mr. Misenhimer

He was in Italy, but he came over there sometime in the first part of '44.

Mrs. Underwood

Yes, well this was in '42 in April. A very interesting part comes where my husband was an American. He was _____. He was in the message office there, so he was browsing and doing all these top-secret documents, and he was down below from where I was. That's where we met. And then we were in France and Germany together.

Mr. Misenhimer

Lets go back to the time you were doing this planning. Who were some of the officers, the high-ranking officers, you worked under there or knew there?

Mrs. Underwood

I didn't know them personally. The first general that I worked for was _____.

Then the Americans, I don't remember all their names. They were all working on the

_____ and then they all had these kinds of _____

explained on paper and _____. I know they did outline maps, for

demonstration purposed to use at their conferences between Roosevelt and

_____.

Mr. Misenhimer

Churchill?

Mrs. Underwood

Churchill and _____ were the two ones that they had there on that particular

thing about that. _____ we had to do _____.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you draw these maps, what did you draw them from?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, some of them we would blow up in certain areas we'd take from a regular map and transform it to be able to do a big one, which was what they wanted.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever draw maps from aerial photographs or anything like that?

Mrs. Underwood

No, not from aerial photographs.

Mr. Misenhimer

From other maps then.

Mrs. Underwood

Yes, we used different maps that we'd transform them into _____ and there would be information on it and things like that. And then eventually the _____ outside London. We were safe according to our _____. That's when the buzz bombs started, and then out of the...by the way, the division I was in _____ was called _____. And that was the name of the place where I worked. From there, we went to _____ and then we were done. We didn't spend the night of the invasion, you could hear all the planes going over, you know, explosions in that headquarters you could watch where they were going. And it was quite exciting.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you know what day the invasion was going to be?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, we knew when it was supposed to be. It was on _____. But yes, we knew when the _____.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you draw any maps of the invasion beaches?

Mrs. Underwood

I don't know what you mean by that. Nor detail maps of course, _____ maps of the beach areas, arrows and things of where they were supposed to be _____. I think it was 3 weeks into that thing they advanced to the Cherbourg Peninsula they took a small town on the bottom of the Cherbourg Peninsula, and we were there 3 or 4 weeks, something like that. Then when we got to France, the _____, we were moved to _____.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were still doing the same thing? Still making maps over there, or what were you doing now?

Mrs. Underwood

Yeah, we were doing the same thing.

Mr. Misenhimer

About how many people were in your particular area where you were working?

Mrs. Underwood

Oh, goodness, I don't know, hundreds I guess. It was a big headquarters. I had high ranking officers grow on trees. (laughing) _____ . We had Army, Navy, Air Force, British and Americans you know.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was this SHAEK Headquarters?

Mrs. Underwood

Yes. Yes, I think that means Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was Eisenhower there then? Did you ever see him?

Mrs. Underwood

Oh, in cars and things. I didn't meet him personally. He moved around all the time.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about Tedder?

Mrs. Underwood

Yeah, he moved around.

Mr. Misenhimer

And Beetle Smith?

Mrs. Underwood

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

So all these people were around.

Mrs. Underwood

Down the hall on the next floor. They were on the first floor. You were working for them indirectly.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did Eisenhower ever speak to your group or anything like that?

Mrs. Underwood

Not really. We just worked for him.

Mr. Misenhimer

He didn't make a speech to you or anything like that?

Mrs. Underwood

No, no. I had access to the war room you know where the war room plans were to put information the maps. It was an interesting place to be.

Mr. Misenhimer

I can imagine. How about Montgomery? Did you ever see Montgomery?

Mrs. Underwood

No, he was up in the north with the 21st Group.

Mr. Misenhimer

21st Group, right.

Mrs. Underwood

21st Group of the British Army. I only went there one time after the war was over.

Eisenhower was up there.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about Brook, who was chairman of the Imperial General Staff?

Mrs. Underwood

Who?

Mr. Misenhimer

General Brook? He was chairman of the Imperial General Staff.

Mrs. Underwood

Probably so but I don't remember seeing him.

Mr. Misenhimer

He was mainly in London with the BCOS.

Mrs. Underwood

General Gavin was just down the hall. He was by far one of the youngest generals, he was a paratrooper. He was just down the hall. My best girlfriend was in the Service, too. She was the daughter of _____, and she was in ^{typist} ~~typist~~ pool. And she was one of the girls that typed the surrender. And then when they were in, we were in Versailles for a number of nights during the Battle of the Bulge and all that was going on, we were in Versailles. Then we, as the war moved on, we went to Reims, which is where the peace was signed. We saw the Germans signing that.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you were there when that happened, okay.

Mrs. Underwood

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer

Yes, Eisenhower had an advanced quarters there at Reims I believe.

Mrs. Underwood

Yeah, it was a technical college I think that for the French. It was quite a big building.

You know they had taken it over and they called it the little red schoolhouse but it was

not a red schoolhouse. It was a _____ building, but it was a Technical

College, too. And there, we _____ building there in

_____. SHAF didn't have a place to go. (laughing) A majority of them,

when the war was over, some of them went to Berlin. My husband went to Berlin, and I

went back to the British area _____. My husband

and I were together in France and Germany, which is probably an unusual thing, but not

for today. We weren't in Berlin together.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you get married?

Mrs. Underwood

I got married over here. I was going to get married over in England but I decided against

it, and then he got discharged and came home and I was discharged and worked in

London. Waiting to get a visa and then I flew over here.

Mr. Misenhimer

Okay, I see. So you were not married when you were over there together in the Service then.

Mrs. Underwood

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

What's some other things that happened to you while you were over there in England or in Germany or France?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, there was a lot going on. You know, sometimes we worked all night you know, a lot was demanded of us. You know, life goes on. At Versailles, we were in the hotel Fairmont. We had 10 days off for _____. It was a nice war. (laughing)

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever see D. Gualle?

Mrs. Underwood

No, I don't think I did. I think it was around headquarters. I don't ever see him.

Mr. Misenhimer

I know he came there several times for conferences with Eisenhower.

Mrs. Underwood

Right.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you think of Eisenhower?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, like I said, I didn't know him personally but I thought well of him. He was a remarkable...he was the man for the job I think. He had a likeable personality and the ability to pull things together.

Mr. Misenhimer

I understand that he and Montgomery didn't always get along too well together.

Mrs. Underwood

I don't think Montgomery got along with anybody. (laughing) He was a contrary person.

I don't think we could have pulled people together like Ike did. Glenn Miller was at Patton's place.

Mr. Misenhimer

I'm sorry. Who was that?

Mrs. Underwood

Glenn Miller.

Mr. Misenhimer

Sure.

Mrs. Underwood

Who disappeared over the channel somewhere no one ever knew what happened to him.

Now the _____. I actually did the drawings for it, and if you are interested in any of the names mentioned in that book, "Three Years with Eisenhower" by Butcher.

It's all in there. And at the end of it all, I was _____ the first _____ signed by Eisenhower, and the British Empire medal.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you first went in, what was your pay?

Mrs. Underwood

My goodness. I don't remember. It wasn't near as much as the Americans. (laughing) I don't remember.

Mr. Misenhimer

What rank did you have when you went in? Did you have ranks?

Mrs. Underwood

I was Corporal.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was the highest rank you got to?

Mrs. Underwood

I was a private when I went in. The British don't promote people every 6 months or so like the Americans do. The office I was in had a private, a corporal, a lance corporal and a sergeant. And it stayed that way. We didn't get promoted up to different ranks. In the order of battle didn't have very much sergeants, whatever. I think most of the Americans in my office got up to Master Sergeant. I had talked to several of them in the last 3 years ago. We got contact and _____ down in Florida and there was another one somewhere in North Carolina. We all got chummy together while there.

Mr. Misenhimer

So in your office, there were Americans and British together. Were any American women there?

Mrs. Underwood

No, one came over but I don't know what happened to her, she disappeared. Now there were a lot of American women at SHAEF, just not in the ATF. There weren't any in my office.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was the relationship between the British and the Americans good or how?

Mrs. Underwood

Oh, they were great. Really, I don't think observed any problem with that at all.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever hear of the pigeon corps, using pigeons to carry messages back and forth?

Mrs. Underwood

We never had anything like that (laughing).

Mr. Misenhimer

I had a friend ask about that the other day, said he had a friend in it in World War II, so they used some apparently. But as far as you know, you didn't know anything about that then.

Mrs. Underwood

No, I didn't.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then when the Battle of the Bulge started, how did you hear about that and what was the situation then?

Mrs. Underwood

Well of course, headquarters was very worried about it. There were rumors you know that they were going to parachute people in American uniforms. Of course, they were

worried about the defense of the headquarters, but they got pretty trigger happy. They'd stop a vehicle along the road and if they didn't stop, they'd shoot the tires out. You know, we were far removed from it but worrying about the outcome.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was there a lot more activity when that was going on?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, no not really concerned about it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now when Germany finally surrendered, how did you hear about that?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, we were right in the building with the _____. I told you my girlfriend typed the...

Mr. Misenhimer

Typed up the document, right.

Mrs. Underwood

Well they were typing the surrender. We went down to the end. They came in the main entrance to the school, and there was a staircase there that looked down on that. And we were standing there and watched them come in.

Mr. Misenhimer

Any celebration when the war was over?

Mrs. Underwood

Nothing spectacular. People were pleased but we didn't have any particular festivity.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever see any USO Shows or anything like that?

Mrs. Underwood

Oh, yeah. There was an awful lot around. In Paris, the American Red Cross, USO Shows. There was something going on all the time.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you attend those?

Mrs. Underwood

We attended a lot of them on days off and things like that. We'd catch a train into Paris.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was your work schedule?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, just the usual. Six days a week with one day off, and early morning until they wanted you to quit. Normally you would quit about 6 o'clock. But if something needed to be done, you did it.

Mr. Misenhimer

What time did you start in the morning?

Mrs. Underwood

We'd have breakfast about 7.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was some other things that happened?

Mrs. Underwood

Something was going on all the time. At headquarters you got in the habit of not talking about it, especially when planning overlord. Not talking to anybody and you just didn't

talk about it. It was in the back of your mind. The British was very concerned about spies.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now in April of 1945, President Roosevelt died. What was the reaction when y'all heard about that?

Mrs. Underwood

Well I think we were all very sorry about that. End of an era so to speak. Of course, I wasn't in England so I don't know what they did, you know.

Mr. Misenhimer

But there at the headquarters.

Mrs. Underwood

But they did mark the time and the V2s were being dropped on a number of planes. I didn't have any effect from that because I wasn't home. They were unnerving because you didn't hear them coming. You just heard the explosion.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you were there, after you left England, were you ever bombed or attacked or anything at all over in France or Germany or anywhere?

Mrs. Underwood

No. When we were in _____ on the Cherbourg Peninsula, the place all around Cherbourg was mined and stuff like that and you'd have to walk between these tapes to where they had cleared the way. And you'd hear a bomb explode once in a while in the distance. It was horrible because you didn't know where there were any Germans you know, hiding. But we didn't have any. We did have one scare where everybody got

deadly sick. Whole headquarters was just sick, intestinal something. And they were a little bit concerned that we had been poisoned in some way. So you didn't drink the local water. You drank from containers that had been treated. French water is not very good anyway. (laughing) And you just drank, there was a big scare about that but after that you knew it was sterilized.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about the French people? Did you have any relationship with the French people over there?

Mrs. Underwood

Not much, not much.

Mr. Misenhimer

What would you consider your most frightening time?

Mrs. Underwood

Well the start of the blitz I guess because you didn't know what was gonna happen. You got bombs dropped there at night and whizzing about over your head. But we did get sort of used to it just go about our business. Our town had a bomb close about 3 times. Our name was on it. But it didn't happen. Move to another area they were perusing

Mr. Misenhimer

Then when did you finally come back to England, leave Germany or wherever?

Mrs. Underwood

'45. I was in the Service for about 5 years.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you went in in '40 and got out in '45 sometime.

Mrs. Underwood

Right. And like I say, I met my husband in London in SHAEF headquarter. He came over in '42, and we were together all the way through. That part of it was kind of nice.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where was the last place you were stationed on the continent?

Mrs. Underwood

Well it was in Frankfort, Germany. The last place was in Germany as SHAEF. But then I went up to the north part of Germany near Hanover in the British Army. In an office there, which was kind of boring putting pipes and bridges on a map. That was boring after SHAEF. I did get a ride from there to Berlin one day. I don't know if you know that the way things are in...

Mr. Misenhimer

You're saying you hitched a ride to Berlin one day.

Mrs. Underwood

Well, there was a couple of officers going to Berlin and they knew I wanted to go, so they said, "Do you want to come?" so I went and got permission to spend the weekend in Berlin with officers. I had a boyfriend at that time, but that was kind of interesting because you know Berlin was in terrible shape. Chancellery blown up where the bomb shelter was that Hitler was supposed to have been. That was really moving.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you stay in Berlin? Were the hotels staying?

Mrs. Underwood

No, nothing like that. I stayed with some members of my old unit were there and I had arranged to just spend the night with them. In other words, you don't call it a barracks. The Army had taken over some apartments or whatever and that unit was in there, and I stayed with them, my old friends, my old unit stationed there. I went to north Germany. Some of them went to Berlin but I wanted to stay in the drawing office.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then after the war, how were things in England there?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, it was kind of, you know they were kind of worn out really. They had had a pretty rough time of it. I had worked in London for a magazine and _____.

There was a tremendous amount of damage done to London. It still ran. (laughing)

Mr. Misenhimer

How about food? Was food kind of short in London after the war?

Mrs. Underwood

Food, well there was rationed. My mother was an amazing thing with rations. We never went hungry. I think we were probably on a more healthy diet than we are now. For instance, you know there were no oranges and bananas and things like that. Then I lived in a facility, of course, it was American there. It was in the area of the American troops and they had American food you could buy. We'd buy oranges and things like that and send them home with people who were going home. I remember one boy that was in my office. He went home, I sent him home with some of my oranges and things and his little child didn't know what an orange was. And in England, you know clothing was rationed,

too. You had _____ regulations for not using all
_____.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then you came to the U.S. in '47?

Mrs. Underwood

Yes, I came there in '47.

Mr. Misenhimer

To North Carolina or where?

Mrs. Underwood

I flew to New York then down to North Carolina.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did you find conditions over here? Was it much different than England?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, I was very fortunate. I had been through North Carolina family. My husband's family was 10 children and they were all lovely people and seemed to be happy

_____. And I stayed with one of my brother-in-law and sister-in-law, and they just made me feel at home. The Scotch-Irish and English background, so I didn't find it much different from my own people.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you didn't have any problem adapting to American life then.

Mrs. Underwood

Well, the hot weather I did. North Carolina summers are pretty rough. I found that to be hard to get used to.

Mr. Misenhimer

Have you been back to England since you've been here?

Mrs. Underwood

Yes, I've been back 2 or 3 times. But really when the war was over, it was a sort of downer in a way. You know the fact that we were in future plans. We were out of a job so to say. (laughing)

Mr. Misenhimer

It had been an emotional high for everyone so it was kind of a let down I guess.

Mrs. Underwood

Yeah, in some ways.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else you can think of?

Mrs. Underwood

Well, I've got 2 sons. They're both _____. One is a professor at the University of Oklahoma and he's been on several summers over in London doing something with foreign studies. And the other one is a businessman you might say. He's a microbiologist with a pharmaceutical company that has developed business all over the world. They've been around. Not off hand really.

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