

**Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center**

Transcript of an

Oral History Interview with

Andrew Small

Sniper, Army, Mexican Punitive Expedition and World War I

1999

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103**

Small, Andrew (c. 1891-2003). Oral History Interview, 1999.

User Copy: 1 sound cassette (c. 50 min.); analog. 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master: 1 video recording (ca. 50 min.); ½ inch, color.

Abstract:

Andrew Small, resident of Weston, Wisconsin briefly, enlisted in the Army on December 14, 1915. He relates his experience as part of the 1916-1917 Mexican Punitive Expedition in pursuit of Mexican revolutionary General Pancho Villa. Small then covers his service as a sniper during World War I with the 6th Division, US Army, American Expeditionary Force. He reflects upon the sinking of an overcrowded troop transport sailing for Europe, and the loss of 2,000 lives; he felt fortunate that he had been able to remain back. Once in France, he was sent immediately to the trenches. Small says that he earned “two dollars extra a month to be a good shot” with his M1903 Springfield rifle. After the armistice, and release from the Army on June 4, 1920, he resumed residence in Chicago and then moved to Wisconsin to farm.

Biographical Sketch:

Andrew Small (c.1891-2003) served with the US Army during the Mexican Punitive Expedition of 1916-1917, and as a sniper with the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. He was discharged in 1920.

Interview by James McIntosh, 1999.

Transcribed by Steve Schecher and Linda Weynand, 2012.

Transcription edited and corrected by Channing Welch, 2014.

Corrections typed in by Jeff Javid, 2015.

Abstract written by Jeff Javid, 2015.

Interview Transcript:

Small: Old [inaudible] from Chihuahua, state of Chihuahua. Who was that they— I forgot his name.

McIntosh: The general? [John J.] Pershing?

Small: No. The Mexican general.

McIntosh: Oh, Pancho Villa.

Small: Oh yeah, Pancho Villa [laughs]. Yeah.

McIntosh: Yeah. You never caught him.

Small: No. He's still there. He's still some place around [McIntosh laughs].

McIntosh: He must be.

Small: Kashuba(??).

McIntosh: Right. Did you ride a lot of horses down there?

Small: No. They got burrilla(??) [laughs].

Woman: Burros.

McIntosh: Oh, yes.

Small: Burrilla(??) horses, the burrilla(??)

McIntosh: But, you didn't ride those?

Small: No. I ride them.

McIntosh: Oh, you did?

Small: Yeah. You give 'em sugar, you ride them all day [both laugh]. He likes the sugar. Oh, boy.

McIntosh: What did you do in the Army? What was your job?

Small: My job was I kill the enemy.

McIntosh: The enemies?

Small: Oh, yeah. After them and also they steal a chicken, they steal eggs and everything you know on the American side. Then they run away to Mexico, and then we go after them. They hide in the mountains in Chihuahua. They's pretty tricky. Nobody can capture 'em there because them hills is just so deep and high. What do you wanna do about it? But, anyway Pancho Villa is still—they said, you know, he die, but I don't see him, and I don't see that time you know. But he's still there, and his name is there, all over.

McIntosh: Right. Did you carry a rifle?

Small: Oh, sure.

McIntosh: A Springfield 1903?

Small: No. That's the old—Springfield.

McIntosh: Yes. Were you a good shot?

Small: Oh, yeah. That's why they sent me over there because I was a good shot.

McIntosh: Did you kill anybody?

Small: You don't know that not supposed to talk about that: who killed it, I who was here.

McIntosh: Oh.

Small: The orders [?] of war but nobody's business, you know. What you gonna do?

McIntosh: Were you a sergeant?

Small: Yeah. I was a corporal, and then I was a sergeant. But the war is over in 1911. Then they send me home to Chicago. I come home to Chicago, nothing to do. They got no money to pay me. So what you going to do about it? They still owed a lot of(??) money, but I don't know. Maybe this America, chances are they pay that general to quit the war. So, I don't know.

McIntosh: When the war started in Europe, then you went to Europe?

Small: Oh, yeah. Right away we went that way to Germany because Germany was losing. Then we went to France and to Italy. Oh, there was a lot of trouble. I was hungry half the time.

McIntosh: What was your outfit?

Small: Oh, we are not supposed to talk about that.

McIntosh: What division were you in? What division were you in?

Small: The 6th Division.

McIntosh: The 6th Division?

Small: Yeah.

McIntosh: And what regiment?

Small: Regiment 17. I'm not supposed to tell this business now. Army business, you know, that's secret.

McIntosh: Oh. What was your job in Europe? In Germany, what was your job there?

Small: Well, when we was war was I shoot at anybody that's moving. But when this was over I didn't have no job.

McIntosh: Did you fire machine guns?

Small: No. Just a rifle, that Springfield rifle.

McIntosh: Yes. You lived in a trench?

Small: Oh yeah. We zigzag this way, and this way, and this way, and this way. It goes—when you shoot at one place there's still people later at the other side(??).

McIntosh: Right. How did you deal with the mud that you were in all the time? The mud?

Small: I don't know what you mean.

McIntosh: Oh, the dirt. The mud.

Small: Oh, the month: December 27th. That was my birthday.

McIntosh: Oh. Were you gassed? Have any poison gas? Poison gas?

Small: No, we didn't have that. The Germans would use it, you know, to kill the French with the poison gas. They says, you know, that when you sniff that there's only a couple—I don't like it. But whatever, you know, the Armistice Day when we was told that, we was happy bunch, you know.

McIntosh: Yes.

Small: November 11th, that was war over and no more fighting. I threw my gun away to the quartermaster and I got the receipt. So, I thought, "My gosh, why we got no more guns?" But I still fighting, you know, undercover.

McIntosh: Undercover?

Small: Yeah.

McIntosh: What did you do?

Small: That's my business, [laughs].

McIntosh: Oh.

Small: Have to go stop.

McIntosh: Well, it's pretty safe now. That's a long time ago.

Small: I don't know if it is safe or not. For me that was one thing, you know [James laughs]. Yeah.

McIntosh: How did you get to Europe—on a ship? What about the ship ride to Europe?

Small: Oh sure, we had a big—2,000 people right away for the ship to go and sunk. Germany was sunking. I was sort of lucky though. The ship was overcrowded, and they let me stay back with several other fellas. Good thing that I did because the ship was unsteady going to ground there at the water but the overcrowded at one side that we tip over, and then everybody go over the [inaudible]. I was too late to get in there. That's why I was still [inaudible]. Kashuba, Kasuba(??). Oh, yeah.

McIntosh: Did you get sick on the boat? Did you get sick on the boat?

Small: [inaudible] me feel funny, you know. I don't like it. You get all like that, you get crazy.

McIntosh: You landed in France, and then where did you go?

Small: Well, we went to work right away in the trenches. The trenches were there already. We were there already. We were there, go drag this way, this way, this way, this way. They kept doing that. Then you get killed in that place but still not killed in the airplanes. And then I know more and more that morning, you know. I was on [inaudible] the group that some way got sick from dragging all the dead. Eleven o'clock they called me, the general talking and announced, "About 11 o'clock the war over! They signed the peace!" They say, "This is Armistice Day." I didn't know what armistice mean, but I know that they come in there—the officers come in there—and they say, "You know, God won't let us(??) fight anymore. You throw your rifle, you gave him the guns and everything, you know. But you could keep your uniform because they got stock for uniform. So I was happy. We went downtown and got drunk [laughs].

McIntosh: Oh, [laughs] ha, ha, ha. Where did you enlist? Where did you go in the service? In Chicago?

Small: Yeah, in Saint Louis.

McIntosh: In Saint Louis?

Small: That was, Missouri, yeah.

McIntosh: Is that where you were born?

Small: No, no. I was born in Chicago, but they—see, that was funny. We went to the service in Chicago, like a mass(??), and there was a soldier there in a uniform, and he was so nice, and he was proud, got the jacket pressed, sleeves, and then pants and those sleeves. After the service you know there was a wedding. Somebody they got wedding. And then everybody was looking at that wedding how they march in, you know, and up to the—in the church up to the priest, and then they put the [inaudible] on it you know, and then we go back, and then we going to have a dinner. After dinner we have a band—music play, and that's why I was at that. I still remember being—They announced the what you call it and pay the bills for the service and then come out. Then we went to the dinner. Yeah. And they were right that you will see the vodka! [laughs] That was whole the day, you know! That bride was

walking, bridesmaids at first and then second. There was three. The last one come in was the bride. Man was here waiting for her; they come in there, they meet by each end, you know, and then he kiss the bride. Everybody tried to kiss the bride! [all laugh]

McIntosh: [Laughs]

Woman: Are you married?

Small: Oh, yeah. [Unintelligible]. Oh, well. But that was years back, years back, you know. I forgot all about it.

Woman: Were you an officer when you were in the service?

Small: Huh?

Woman: Were you an officer?

Small: No, I was a sergeant. A first class private, then whatcha call, the second place private, then sergeant. I was a sergeant—not a first sergeant but just a regular sergeant—platoon sergeant, that’s what it was. A platoon is about, oh, eighty men—that would be platoon, you know. I in charge of that [inaudible], two(??) squads, you know.

Woman: Did they pay you? Did you get paid?

Small: Oh, sure. [inaudible]. Then we went to dinner. And they had a dinner, you know. The bride come in there and then her parents, you know, and my parents. But I was next to the bride. Everybody dressed, everybody happy, because everybody—then we said, “We gonna have a dinner.” After dinner a dance and then we come back, and it’s supper time, and we gonna have another dance yet. So, everybody was happy. [Approx. 25 sec. pause] One night, you know—the night not very long, but at night they were there but half a dozen was, and they hear the noise coming. I thought it was a gorilla coming. What it is? Everybody has the rifle there in that direction. And then slowly and slowly I could hear him coming, but coming direct. I was all trying to put my hat on. They go up, they goes up. The animal startled—that mean you scared it, you scared. But I told ‘em, I said, “I am brave! I’m so brave.” You know my dad said, “When you get to that position you afraid.” Everybody afraid of that kind of position. Maybe you right. I know I was afraid(??). When I heard a bomb(??) coming you know I was just sick, you know. But I told him, “Halt!” and they stop. That’s why said the rule(??). That’s my command, you know, so I

control. Then I told him to advance and went in. I could recognize him already. He come in there, and he says, “You right what you did, you take the place of this fellow”—name the name—and that’s where you [inaudible]. Night over and daytime then they didn’t have an interior, but not all sides, but there was all sides where I was at. There are two guards: there’s one inside, one outside guard. But night in the summertime is so short, you know, 11:00 o’clock you’ll still be getting’, just be getting dark, and 3:00 it’s already [inaudible].

McIntosh: You said you were born in Chicago, and you went in to the service at St. Louis. How did you get to St. Louis?

Small: Well, they got soldier on furlough, and he was from Chicago, and he was in the service. They come back they had a friend talkin’ to him, you know, about the Army, and I listen to it, and he told me, he says, “But they don’t do much, you know. They just travel in the morning and the afternoon you got off, you can go.” But the trouble is we didn’t have enough money. So he said they going to ask the Congress to get more money for the Army because they didn’t have enough money to go to the town and have a—and that’s the way I met soldier, and he told me, “You go to the recruiting sergeant, and he would ride with me. He said, “I take you down to St. Louis, Missouri, and then they take you to the, what you call it, and they examine you. Dr. [inaudible]. That was. They put me on a scale, and I was 109, eighteen years old. I had been here over twenty months. So they said, “We send you back yet.” But I said, “I don’t want to go back. It’s a shame to go.” He says, “No, you need not be ashamed. You stay here for maybe a couple of weeks ago you gain because you eat have enough to eat, you know. You starving like. You gain.” And they was right, you know.

McIntosh: So they fattened you up [laughs].

Small: They fattened me up. They come, you know, I still was about four pounds short, and they say, “Oh, [inaudible] come back another day.” They take me in.

McIntosh: That was in 1916?

Small: 1916, yeah.

McIntosh: You were how old then, eighteen?

Small: By that time I was about nineteen.

McIntosh: Nineteen. Well, you found a job, and you thought it was going to be easy, but then—

Small: They pay us \$15 a month.

McIntosh: Fifteen?

Small: \$15 a month.

McIntosh: Then how soon did you go to Mexico?

Small: Because Pancho Villa is a troublemaker, you know. He want to steal everything from Texas, and Arizona, and all that. So they at night, you know, they grab everything, and then he come out. So General Pershing was in command, he said, “We go and fix him. We going to give them [inaudible].” Boy, but that was a job. You give them the best to comb them hills. We don’t know who you fighting for.

McIntosh: [Laughs]

Small: But the Army said “Sign in November 1916.” Then the war is— they says is not over. The fighting is over, but the war is still going on until the time comes, you know, when and we sign peace. So, later, a lot(??) later, but there was no more fighting.

McIntosh: How long were you in Mexico? How long?

Small: Well, it was about six months or so.

McIntosh: And then you went from there to Europe to fight the other war?

Small: Yeah, the France and Germany that time they started fighting again. So they sent us, you know, to Europe.

McIntosh: And you were in what division? What division were you in?

Small: I Infantry. Infantry.

McIntosh: Yes, but what division? Do you remember the number or the division number?

Small: Six.

McIntosh: 6th Division.

Small: Yeah.

McIntosh: And, you took a boat across over to France?

Small: Yeah. We went to, whatcha call. Then the troops from there(??)—first, you know, they force—they have all the people to sign the [inaudible]. We went on the overloaded ship, and it was too much on one side, and it [inaudible] and 2,000 people get killed.

McIntosh: The ship turned over?

Small: Yeah. See, they was all fellas that were on one side, and many—when they fall over the [inaudible] started leanin’ on the [inaudible]. Some of them saved themselves who know to swim, but the other ones were [inaudible].

McIntosh: So you had to swim?

Small: You can’t swim because it was [inaudible] all people, you know.

McIntosh: Oh.

Small: I tell you, there was trouble, and I got sick. From that, you know, from that I got sick.

McIntosh: So, where did you go in France? When you got to France where did they send you—what town or what city?

Small: You know, I was [inaudible], but I didn’t know nothing about it. Paper and news and all that. They give you supper and dinner and then want you to—you want to have a—don’t come to dinner. So I don’t know nothing about it, you know.

McIntosh: They gave you a Springfield rifle, though.

Small: Oh, yeah, Springfield rifle—but old—first they give us the old rifle, know, 1906 or something—I don’t—

McIntosh: Three [1903], yeah.

Small: Then they trained us, you know in these couple of months, and they issue new rifles, you know, and something.

McIntosh: Were you a good shot?

Small: Oh, yeah. I got two extra dollars a month to be a good shot.

McIntosh: Did you get any medals? Did they award you any medals?

Small: They give you, you know, badge if you was corporal, or sergeant, or good shot they—then you put you on your arm.

McIntosh: Sure.

Small: They don't salute to that yet, but the officers they gotta bars on their [inaudible] two silver bars [inaudible]. Rogan(??) was general—I never see him hardly.

McIntosh: Did you have any trouble getting around in the trenches?

Small: Oh, yeah. We was moving(??) all the time, you know. Never get the time to meet to know you—come to meet us up, and they started shooting. They see movement in the trenches, you know, and they go for dinner or so, and the trenches would move. They come back. They had [inaudible], and there was trouble. You can't hide no place.

McIntosh: [laughs] Right. Did the Germans throw any poison gas at you?

Small: That was the time before we get there. They kill quite a few people with that poison gas. But there was outlaw—all the Russia and all that outlawed the—[public address system interruption]. Oh, yeah, yeah.

McIntosh: Did you ever meet anybody from the Salvation Army?

Small: No. They scared. They don't want them in there because the newspaper they write, they go to Chicago and meet people, but they come to no—with the rifle you had, they trade.

McIntosh: How about the Red Cross?

Small: That's what I should talking about.

McIntosh: Oh, well, I asked you first about the Salvation Army. Didn't they bring you doughnuts and coffee and hot chocolate?

Small: [laughs] Nothing. If they had it they eat it themselves, you know.

McIntosh: [Laughs] Oh, that's—

Small: Because they were in position looking for that something for themselves to have a bite, you know.

McIntosh: Sure. Did you get mail when you were in Europe?

Small: Maybe more than once a month, you know. But you don't know when you going to get it.

McIntosh: Who would write to you—your father? Or do you have brothers or sisters that wrote to you?

Small: I don't remember who was my—I know he was a—let me think. Oh, there was in Mexico. So the war is over. There was a no men(??) to come fighting no more, but Pancho Villa still living, and they looking for him to capture him. I said, [inaudible], but nobody see him. Maybe he died, maybe they shoot him. But anyway, there was no Pancho Villa no more. Why that Army said they would still good to them because [inaudible] there was no cold weather hardly because out there it was warm, but I don't like it.

McIntosh: Did the Germans come out of their trenches to come over to your side at the Armistice?

Small: Huh?

McIntosh: When the war was over did the Germans get out of their trenches and come over to talk to you?

Small: They was all disbanded, you know.

McIntosh: Oh, there was no more—

Small: Army, German Army, then. They said officers put in jail and after they take away rifle from them and tell them to go home and do the work—do the plowing and cut the grain. Everybody was satisfied because there was no more fighting. Then we started eatin' supper and dinner. Before then(??) we had no—but then meal coming [laughs] once a day and one time two, three times and three times a day.

McIntosh: The food wasn't very good?

Small: Not much. But I didn't care for food, you know. I eat everything they gave me. But there was marmalade, that they call it [laughs].

McIntosh: Marmalade? Yeah. How about some meat? Did they bring you some meat?

Small: No, if you go and kill a rabbit [McIntosh laughs]. Catch him. **[End of Tape 1, Side A]** The rabbit was more scared than the man because the rabbit was ___in the woods and the mountains they got all day to hide.

McIntosh: Well, did you talk to any of the Germans after the war?

Small: Oh, yeah. But they was disbanded, too. They tell them, “You go home for your woman or to your children if you had it if they don’t kill. So you go to work like you did before.” So they had, you know, some woman they’re after the place where they used to be, and they didn’t know what—they looking for another man because they needed a man to help them. And first thing before they did it they had more kids, and they don’t know who father was. Oh, terrible(??) it was. Lots of trouble.

McIntosh: How long did you stay in Germany after the Armistice?

Small: Not very long. After that they send everybody home, and then the Russians give up the Ukraine. You know the big part of the Russia used to be in north Ukraine. And there was Austria, and that was world(??) for us, and we was the old(??)—and we had their own army, you know, our own country. We speaking Ukraine. I tell you we was happy, we was dancing in the street [laughs].

McIntosh: Could you speak Ukrainian?

Small: Oh, I was born Ukrainian!

McIntosh: You were born? You were not born in Chicago?

Small: Oh, you mean after the war?

McIntosh: No, but you were born in Ukraine?

Small: Yeah.

McIntosh: I see. And then you came to the United States when?

Small: 1920.

McIntosh: Well, that’s why you could speak Ukrainian.

Small: Oh, yeah.

Woman: Can you speak some now?

McIntosh: Yeah.

Small: I don't know who my mother was or who was my father. I don't know.

McIntosh: Yeah, oh, you don't know the father? Never knew him?

Small: Never knew. Never see him. Never know him.

McIntosh: I see. Can you still speak Ukrainian?

Small: Oh, yeah!

McIntosh: Oh, really.

Small: Yeah, [speaks in Ukrainian] [McIntosh laughs] I speak Polish, too.

McIntosh: Oh, really! Say something in Polish.

Small: [speaks in Polish]

McIntosh: [Laughs] Wonderful, wonderful! [Small laughs] Well, that's nice. So where did you go when you came back out of the Army? Did you go back to Chicago?

Small: I was all over the country looking for place to make a home. I pastured the cattle, the cows, to make a living, you know. They pay me two cents a cow for the year(??). Then afterward then I found somebody. They liked me, you know, to hire me so I went there, and worked for a woman. She had a girl, and I marry her. Of course(??) after that that the mother and father disappear. I take the farm over, Ukraine.

McIntosh: Did you have children?

Small: No, I don't remember. I don't remember. They said, you know, we had children, and we will march, you know, from Ukraine to Warsaw. I never come back no more. You know, if I know, had education, probably I find out lots of things, but I didn't know.

McIntosh: I see. What was your name originally? What was your original name?

Small: Andrzej Small.

McIntosh: Smart? That's a Ukrainian name?

Small: That's Ukrainian. I never change it.

McIntosh: Ah, I see, yeah.

Small: I always call me Andrzej, Andrzej.

McIntosh: Smart? Not Small? Your last name was Small originally? Your original Ukrainian name?

Small: That's Ukrainian: Andrzej Small.

McIntosh: Small, okay. All right.

Small: They shipped herring from Europe to America—barrels, lots of shippers. I was helping them to load it. When I went to unload it in America—the herring. I meet a so-called(??) Jew, and he says, “You don't have to go back. Stay there.” So I hide you for awhile and then you be American.” I listened to him. He did right.

McIntosh: How old were you then when you came to America?

Small: Must be nineteen years old.

McIntosh: Oh, you went in the Army then right away after you came?

Small: We didn't have no Army no more. After the war is over, that first war is over then everybody go back to their old country: Poland, Lithuanian, Hungarian, all that. So I don't know what happen to them. I go to Poland. We fight with the Poland because we probably used to have a large Ukrainian population. Then when that happened Ukrainian raise up, and they overtook the Poland. So we become, you know, Ukraine. Then when Russia give up the Ukraine, the Ukraine become the biggest country in Europe then. So I could(??) come to America.

McIntosh: You never went back to visit Ukraine? You didn't go back?

Small: No, I find a job after hiding undercover for about a year. Then I find a job. The French, even—I was makin'—did I mention woman—I don't know [inaudible]—but we stayed together with

that woman for awhile, but some way or another I then begin by myself. I was drinking too much.

McIntosh: Oh, you were? Yeah?

Small: Yeah.

McIntosh: That was after the war?

Small: That was after the war.

McIntosh: Yes. That's when you were busy looking for a job again.

Small: Well, we had a farm.

McIntosh: Where?

Small: On the farm. But everything on the farm—the land was there, building was there, but no more cows, we didn't have horses no more. So I came, and that was my bearing(??), my former farm. I stayed there. I attached to the cows and the [inaudible]. In the wintertime, you know, we feed the cows because the cows was in the barn. So [inaudible] we chase the cows outside, no pasture then. They pay me just three cents an hour, five cents an hour—it depends how I make a contract with them. But that's all I could do. You take it what they give you.

McIntosh: Yes. Where was this farm?

Small: Farm?

McIntosh: Where was it?

Small: We were in French.

McIntosh: In France?

Small: Yes. But when I come to America, you know, I don't know what was it. I know there was—they hire me—a hired man, you know—and they pasture [inaudible]. In wintertime, you know, there was snow, not mud but snow, so I clean the barn and take the manure out and feed the cows and water the cows. I had to do everything, you know, immediately with them(??). Then the Ukraine come from home—our war with Russia give up Ukraine. Germany lost Ukraine. Poland lost Ukraine. After(??) Ukraine was the biggest country in Europe. So we went home to start a fight all over again,

to start to raise the cattle. But there's no money to buy anything, you know, machinery and all that. But little by little we add [inaudible], and I don't know. I don't remember(??).

McIntosh: So then you came back to the United States to live?

Small: They shipped the herring. They shipped from Poland. Poland sell to America the herring. All big ship. I was along to load it. Then I went with the load to America from Poland. And the Jewish fella, he says, "You don't have to go back because you hide undercover for a couple months", he said. "Maybe you become American citizen." I listened to him. He did right. So I come to the America, you know unload the ship. [Inaudible] the job it was already—they know me, and I know the job, so I got there, you know, and month by month, year by year and I become an American citizen. That was happy because I would become American! When I come home then to Europe to visit I was American! Aye, aye, aye.

McIntosh: Do you remember how old you were you then when you became an American?

Small: Maybe twenty-two or so, twenty-one, twenty-two. I don't remember exactly.

McIntosh: A couple years after the war, then.

Small: Yeah.

McIntosh: Yeah. And then you lived in Chicago?

Small: Yeah, I lived in Chicago on North Side.

McIntosh: Then when did you come to Wisconsin?

Small: There was a closed—there was no Wisconsin. Ukraine becomes a country—we get the Polack out of there because Poland own Ukraine [inaudible]. So we told them to get out of there, and then they did because we had the biggest majority. So I become Ukraine.

McIntosh: When did you get from Chicago to Wisconsin, up here? How did you move to here?

Small: I don't know. There's so much trouble now.

McIntosh: In Chicago?

Small: No, I was still in the Army [public address system interruption], and the 11th day of November they said broadcasting on the radio, so there going to be big announcement to make. And by gosh we listened to the [inaudible]. They said, “The Armistice Day is signed. No more fight, no more war.” So if you listened to 11:00 o’clock, and by God they come out and the announcement coming that says, ‘Everybody is safe. Russia give up Ukraine, and Ukraine now is the biggest country in Europe.’ In France and we says, “So, we form our own government.” I don’t know if there was much of a government, but anyway—and we started where Russia used to be. I find my old farm, but we didn’t have no more—because wars eat up everything. They take our cows, they eat it, wagons, you know, so we have to start over again. Find someplace, you know.

McIntosh: Where did you get out of the Army—back in Chicago or in St. Louis?

Small: I was went to St. Louis, and the induction officer, you know, they send you to examine you if you fit for Army.

McIntosh: No, I’m talking about getting out. How did you get out of the Army?

Small: They didn’t have enough money to pay us to go so they got—“If you got a job or you got a farm, you go home and do the farming, and do the best you can do to build yourself again farm.” Buy yourself cattle, buy a little calf, and in a couple of years you gonna have a cow. And oh, that they tell us, you know. And we got it. [Inaudible]

McIntosh: Do you remember where you were when you got out of the Army? Where were you?

Small: After Armistice Day [inaudible] so they told us, you know, “You can go free; no more the Army needed.”

McIntosh: But they had to bring you back to the United States by ship.

Small: Oh, yeah. But I don’t want to go back. I stay there undercover [laughs] because the Jewish fella told me how to go, and I stayed there and load them ship and make a contract for that ship, and first thing, you know, I become a citizen there.

McIntosh: I see. Well, are you getting tired? Am I wearing you out?

Small: Oh yeah [all laugh].

McIntosh: Okay. Do you want to take him?

[End of Interview]