

**Film begins in Ozark, Alabama. Almost certainly taken in October 1942 when my grandmother visited my grandfather there. She probably brought the camera!**

00:07 Miriam Linn (left) and Lucille Silverman (right) in conversation at the Ozark train station.

00:36 Dr. Robert Silverman with the first of many “walk towards the camera and salute” sequences from the film

00:44 Downtown Ozark with lots of footage of the Dale County Confederate memorial

01:19 Lucille Silverman with two officers, probably barracks at Camp Rucker

01:25 Dr. Louis Linn and Miriam Linn getting out of a vehicle and being met by Lucille Silverman, probably Camp Rucker.

01:36 Unidentified girl, child of unidentified officer

02:23 Footage in the vicinity of a lake, most likely Lake Tholocco, complete with Robert Silverman bothering a couple making out on the beach (possibly the Linns)

03:05 Lucille and (Miriam?) and Robert playing with a pair of dogs

04:04 Lucille having difficulty riding a bicycle, and other bicycle footage with Robert and some other unidentified civilians. Apparently, this sort of thing was more interesting before YouTube was invented.

06:22 Group of unidentified civilians and military in dress uniforms appears to be gathering for a photo

**Footage from Tlemcen, Algeria, starting sometime after February 1943 and continuing until at least October 1943.**

06:32 Garden on the grounds of the Hotel Transatlantique (officers' billet)

06:45 Dr. Linn (left) and Dr. Nace Cohen (right, identification not confirmed) walk towards the camera in the garden, followed by another pair of officers (believed to be Dr. George Lee and Dr. Lowell Vinsant), followed by Dr. Robert Silverman with Dr. Irving Weiner, then Dr. Robert Silverman with Dr. Joseph Dolgin)

07:33 US and Red Cross flags flying above one of the 32nd Hospital buildings in Tlemcen. Camera pans down to an enlisted man on guard duty (noncombatant unit so he's only armed with club)

07:45 Hotel Des Voyageurs, the enlisted men billet (it was the officers' for the first two days in

Tlemcen until they upgraded to the Hotel Transatlantique)

08:00 Tlemcen street scenes

08:15 Unidentified officer walking in the street

08:43 Dr. Robert Silverman amazed by all the melons or squash. (Tlemcen is actually fairly lush.)

09:23 Crane nest atop a building, perhaps a mosque.

09:27 Apparently taken from hills outside Tlemcen, showing how green the countryside is. Followed by livestock and street footage.

10:04 Brief dental clinic footage. Unfortunately, there is very little footage of the hospital grounds; it seems he found the surrounding city far more interesting.

10:09 Tea party before the wedding of Dr. Isadore Wessel to Florence Benichou. This occurred in October 1943. This is the best footage of the 32nd Station Hospital personnel in the entire film, maybe because the alcohol was flowing. Benichou is in civilian clothes with blond hair, Dr. Wessel with glasses.

10:46 Dr. Robert Silverman with nurse Frances Rubin (right); the nurse at left is unidentified.

10:50 Lt. Colonel Goss at left with the wedding couple.

10:58 Dr. Robert Silverman with the wedding couple

11:09 Dr. Lowell Vinsant with an unidentified nurse

11:11 Officer at right is Dr. Lowell Vinsant

11:12 Dr. Robert Silverman with an unidentified nurse

11:18 Dr. Joseph Dolgin (left) with Dr. Lowell Vinsant (right)

11:19 Left to right: Dr. Irving Weiner (probably but not confirmed), unknown, Dr. Joseph Dolgin, Dr. Lowell Vinsant

11:39 Left to right: Dr. Robert Silverman, an unidentified nurse, Dr. Joseph Dolgin, and probably George R. Lee

12:03 Gilberte waving at the camera (Florence's sister), with her husband Jean Gueron and their eldest daughter, Françoise

12:21 Robert Silverman doing the salute thing again and walking into the Hotel Transatlantique

(officer billet)

12:36 Appears to be low light footage of the wedding itself

12:44 More footage in the garden, with Dr. Robert Silverman waving and writing a letter. The brassard may be AOD for Administrative Officer of the Day.

13:08 Probably Dr. George Lee followed by Robert Silverman. Too bad I'm not a lip reader. And more saluting.

13:30 Odd sequence where Robert Silverman is pretending to interview Dr. Lowell Vinsant or something.

13:42 Dr. George Lee and Dr. Vinsant laughing

13:44 Footage possibly out of sequence since some of it at least looks like Egypt, which he visited in May 1945 and which is on the film later.

**Italy, 1944 or 1945. Leaves on the trees suggests the footage starts no sooner than April 1944.**

14:04 32nd Station Hospital Compound in Caserta, Italy with an unidentified officer approaching the camera. Note the ambulance in the background.

14:10 Mostly unidentified officers approaching the camera, though it appears that Dr. Phillip Opper (short man, with big smile, at center) is in the group.

14:20 Appears to be Dr. Lowell Vinsant (left) and Dr. Robert Silverman. Note vehicles on the Naples-Caserta road beyond the trees in the background.

**Unknown location(s), likely 1945. This footage may go together with the Middle East trip which follows.**

14:26 Ruins – location uncertain.

14:43 Dr. Robert Silverman appears to be wearing an Eisenhower jacket, suggesting this footage is out of sequence, from 1945.

14:46 Airfield with two C-47s – location uncertain. Then a brief shot of a C-47 or DC-3.

**Egypt and Palestine, May 1945 This is likely out of sequence, since there is a lot of footage from Italy afterward.**

14:57 Getting a taxi in Cairo, with Dr. George F. Evans is at left and Dr. Murray Maurer (not a member of the 32nd Station Hospital, but a close friend of my grandfather's) at right.

15:04 Camels and pyramids.

15:27 Dr. Evans and Dr. Maurer walking with a guide, followed by Robert and more of Dr. Evans and Dr. Maurer.

15:47 Sphinx and Pyramid.

15:55 Cairo, I think.

16:20 Dr. Robert Silverman at a mosque.

16:48 The "Wailing Wall" in Jerusalem, followed by additional Jerusalem footage

**Italy, 1944 and/or 1945 (likely taken before the Middle East footage)**

17:52 Probably Bay of Sorrento

18:11 Philip Opper and Robert Silverman examining statues and plants, possibly at the Hotel Vittoria in Sorrento.

18:27 Robert Silverman has a Seventh Army patch on his shoulder in this sequence, which is interesting because the 32nd Station Hospital was never assigned to that army. Dwight McNelly's manuscript solved the mystery, as it mentions that in the summer of 1944, the 32nd was supposed to join the Seventh Army for the invasion of Southern France; a sergeant sewed patches on everyone's clothes, and then the transfer was cancelled. However, it is unclear if Robert removed the patch right away.

18:32 Philip Opper and Robert Silverman again, still likely in Sorrento and possibly the Grand Vittoria.

19:25 Entrance to the Grand Hotel Vittoria, Sorrento. It's still there, a pricy but luxurious five star hotel.

19:34 Back to the 32nd Station Hospital Compound in Caserta.

19:39 The road, probably near the Royal Palace

19:52 Robert pointing the very long gardens for the Royal Palace of Caserta (Fifth Army and

later Allied Force HQ, one mile north of the hospital compound)

20:05 Dr. Robert Silverman and Dr. Philip Opper visiting the gardens at the Royal Palace of Caserta.

21:15 Almost certainly Naples

21:23 San Carlo opera house, Naples; Robert has programs from three performances from the San Carlo company.

21:33 Bay of Sorrento or Gulf of Naples? Possibly the boat to Capri or Ischia, both of which Robert visited.

21:41 This looks like the Grand Hotel Vittoria, Sorrento again, but could be one of the other R&R locations mentioned. The seascape footage that follows is probably Capri, Ischia, or Sorrento but I'm not sure which.

22:54 Hilltop R&R location, location undetermined. The officers with Robert are unidentified. Seems the grapes were delicious.

23:58 More sailing footage, including footage of aircraft and a hospital ship

24:27 Back to the 32nd Station Hospital compound in Caserta. Unidentified officer in sunglasses at right. Looks like Robert behind him,

24:32 Robert at an unidentified airfield. Marcinese Airfield was very close to the hospital.

24:38 Probably Naples again.

25:16 Naples Post Office, which might have caught Robert's eye either because of its modern appearance or because it was infamous because retreating Germans left a delayed action bomb which exploded on October 7, 1943, several days after they retreated.

25:46 Castel Nuovo, Naples

26:05 Probably the most puzzling sequence on the film. Distant fire or flares from an air raid? I wouldn't think it would be the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius unless the footage is really out of sequence.

26:17 Marching at the 32nd Station Hospital compound in Caserta.

26:34 Robert Silverman walking from the 32nd Station Hospital headquarters in Caserta. Note the sign in English, French, and Italian. Followed by Dr. Irving Weiner in red AO or AOD brassard. The soldier holding the bottle behind him is unidentified.

26:47 I guess an evening Retreat ceremony at the 32nd Station Hospital compound in Caserta.

Followed by more marching.

27:20 I was able to use stills from this sequence to build a panorama of the hospital. If I have my bearings right, Robert pans from north to east. Note the headquarters building, disused air raid shelters (small concrete structure in foreground dating to when the compound was in Italian and/or German hands), red crosses on the roofs, and patients (in dark bathrobes).

27:37 Band at the hospital compound