- 1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,494 [SPINNING REAL]
- 2 00:00:01,494 --> 00:00:34,390
- 3 00:00:34,390 --> 00:00:38,590 Being summoned to hear that they were now prisoners of war.
- 4 00:00:38,590 --> 00:00:41,500 Doenitz, the self-styled fuhrer; Jodl,
- 5 00:00:41,500 --> 00:00:44,620 the former Chief of Staff; and Friedeburg, already
- 6 00:00:44,620 --> 00:00:47,810 no doubt resolved to take his own life.
- 7 00:00:47,810 --> 00:00:50,920 It was a day of mass arrests, amounting to between 5 and 40
- 8 00:00:50,920 --> 00:00:55,180 important civilian officials, as well as all the small fry.
- 9 00:00:55,180 --> 00:00:57,880 Obviously, the new firm of Doenitz, Jodl and Company
- 10 00:00:57,880 --> 00:01:00,490 were hoping to go into business in a big way.
- 11 00:01:00,490 --> 00:01:02,156 At any rate, they've got to get--

12 00:01:02,156 --> 00:01:04,140 [MUSIC PLAYING]

13 00:01:04,140 --> 00:01:23,980

14 00:01:23,980 --> 00:01:26,980 Even senior executives, like Rear Admiral Wagner,

15 00:01:26,980 --> 00:01:29,650 had to fall in with their hands up.

16 00:01:29,650 --> 00:01:32,350 It was while all this was going on that Friedeburg contrive

17 00:01:32,350 --> 00:01:33,860 to commit suicide.

18 00:01:33,860 --> 00:01:35,860 This is his corpse just after he'd taken poison.

19 00:01:35,860 --> 00:02:04,189

20 00:02:04,189 --> 00:02:06,177 [ENGINE RUNNING]

21 00:02:06,177 --> 00:02:28,542

22 00:02:28,542 --> 00:02:31,027 [ENGINE RUNNING]

23 00:02:31,027 --> 00:02:41,961

24 00:02:41,961 --> 00:02:43,452

[ENGINE RUNNING]

25

00:02:43,452 --> 00:03:02,990

26

00:03:02,990 --> 00:03:06,380 The atrocity camp at Belsen, where conditions deliberately

27

00:03:06,380 --> 00:03:08,720 produced by the Germans were so appalling

28

00:03:08,720 --> 00:03:11,900 that people were still dying at the rate of 40 a day,

29

00:03:11,900 --> 00:03:14,630 long after the liberation.

30

00:03:14,630 --> 00:03:16,580 These pictures showing German soldiers

31

00:03:16,580 --> 00:03:18,740 under British guard carrying out the dead

32

00:03:18,740 --> 00:03:20,420 were taken towards the end of May.

33

 $00:03:20,420 \longrightarrow 00:03:26,050$

34

00:03:26,050 --> 00:03:29,350 As the emaciated bodies are laid in a mass grave,

35

00:03:29,350 --> 00:03:33,550 it's quite obvious that they died of starvation and disease.

36 00:03:33,550 --> 00:03:36,820 Already too far gone when the British entered Belsen,

37 00:03:36,820 --> 00:03:41,050 they couldn't take food or respond to medical treatment.

38 00:03:41,050 --> 00:03:43,330 At the burial service, first a Jewish

39 00:03:43,330 --> 00:03:46,650 then a Church of England chaplain officiated.

40 00:03:46,650 --> 00:03:49,800 Medical authorities on the spot estimate that people will still

41 00:03:49,800 --> 00:03:52,440 be dying at least a year from now,

42 00:03:52,440 --> 00:03:57,210 as a direct result of having been inmates of Belsen.

43 00:03:57,210 --> 00:03:59,700 As huts became vacant, they were destroyed,

44 00:03:59,700 --> 00:04:01,320 for it was necessary to obliterate

45 00:04:01,320 --> 00:04:03,720 the filth and the pestilence of this place,

46 00:04:03,720 --> 00:04:07,470 as it is to remember what the Germans did here. 47 00:04:07,470 --> 00:04:11,130 Fire helps to purify the horror of Belsen.

48 00:04:11,130 --> 00:04:14,436 But what can ever cleanse the guilt of Germany?

49 00:04:14,436 --> 00:04:15,930 [MUSIC PLAYING]

50 00:04:15,930 --> 00:04:46,870

51 00:04:46,870 --> 00:04:49,660 While the Allies destroy the camp and care

52 00:04:49,660 --> 00:04:52,000 for the survivors, the people of Germany

53 00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:54,730 are being shown horror films that were taken there.

54 00:04:54,730 --> 00:04:58,330 In Minden, for example, we see them entering a cinema

55 00:04:58,330 --> 00:05:00,280 under compulsion.

56 00:05:00,280 --> 00:05:03,520 And if any are not sickened with shame,

57 00:05:03,520 --> 00:05:05,450 they are indeed, beyond redemption. Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

00:05:05,450 --> 00:05:07,600 [MUSIC PLAYING]

59 00:05:07,600 --> 00:05:22,454