

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:12,450

2

00:00:12,450 --> 00:00:15,570

My name is Norman Krasner.

3

00:00:15,570 --> 00:00:19,740

I was a captain in an
Air Force film unit.

4

00:00:19,740 --> 00:00:23,970

Before the war, I was employed
at Warner Brothers Studios.

5

00:00:23,970 --> 00:00:26,610

Captain Ellis Carter
of Paramount Studios

6

00:00:26,610 --> 00:00:30,690

photographed these pictures, and
Lieutenant William Graff, also

7

00:00:30,690 --> 00:00:34,410

Warner Brothers, was the
third member of our party

8

00:00:34,410 --> 00:00:37,290

which reached Buchenwald,
the concentration

9

00:00:37,290 --> 00:00:40,590

camp near Weimar
Germany, a few hours

10

00:00:40,590 --> 00:00:43,680

after our tanks bypassed it.

11

00:00:43,680 --> 00:00:49,410

We testify these pictures
are truly as represented.

12

00:00:49,410 --> 00:00:53,090
There were 21,000 people
here the day we came,

13
00:00:53,090 --> 00:00:57,240
April 13, 1945.

14
00:00:57,240 --> 00:01:00,375
19,000 people had been
marched off the day before.

15
00:01:00,375 --> 00:01:06,310

16
00:01:06,310 --> 00:01:12,370
These are Russians, Poles,
Hungarians, Belgians,

17
00:01:12,370 --> 00:01:19,090
French, Norwegians,
Czechs, English.

18
00:01:19,090 --> 00:01:23,410
Some Americans had been
interned here temporarily.

19
00:01:23,410 --> 00:01:26,800
About half of these
people are Jews.

20
00:01:26,800 --> 00:01:31,000
Legally, meaning not
illegal, these people

21
00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:33,970
are political prisoners.

22
00:01:33,970 --> 00:01:36,595
Here is a three-year-old
political prisoner.

23
00:01:36,595 --> 00:01:44,140

24
00:01:44,140 --> 00:01:51,490
150 people died the day we came
of malnutrition, tuberculosis,

25
00:01:51,490 --> 00:01:52,890
typhus, et cetera.

26
00:01:52,890 --> 00:01:56,630

27
00:01:56,630 --> 00:02:00,950
150 also died the second
day and also the third.

28
00:02:00,950 --> 00:02:27,430

29
00:02:27,430 --> 00:02:31,630
You might ask why your main
army did not save them.

30
00:02:31,630 --> 00:02:33,960
Medical science could not.

31
00:02:33,960 --> 00:02:37,150
Before the sinking of their
vitality could be arrested,

32
00:02:37,150 --> 00:02:39,350
they reached death.

33
00:02:39,350 --> 00:02:44,080
Most of these human
skeletons are now dead.

34
00:02:44,080 --> 00:02:47,830
If you were an inmate here, you
would be fed soup once a day

35
00:02:47,830 --> 00:02:49,730
and some bread.

36
00:02:49,730 --> 00:02:51,400
The amount varied.

37
00:02:51,400 --> 00:02:54,020
How little it was can be
judged by the practice

38
00:02:54,020 --> 00:02:56,650
the prisoners had of
supporting corpses between them

39
00:02:56,650 --> 00:03:00,850
at roll call so they could
have the dead man's ration,

40
00:03:00,850 --> 00:03:04,030
and this was
punishable by death.

41
00:03:04,030 --> 00:03:07,180
This loudspeaker used to blare
out numbers day or night.

42
00:03:07,180 --> 00:03:11,180

43
00:03:11,180 --> 00:03:13,910
If your number was called,
you took your papers

44
00:03:13,910 --> 00:03:17,100
and reported to a room where
you were hung on a hook

45
00:03:17,100 --> 00:03:18,230
a foot off the ground.

46
00:03:18,230 --> 00:03:25,540

47
00:03:25,540 --> 00:03:28,180

This hanging is not a
drop of 20 feet which

48
00:03:28,180 --> 00:03:30,190
might mercifully
breaks your neck

49
00:03:30,190 --> 00:03:33,310
but a slow, agonizing
strangulation which

50
00:03:33,310 --> 00:03:36,340
takes five to eight minutes.

51
00:03:36,340 --> 00:03:38,650
Two or three men would
hang from the same hook.

52
00:03:38,650 --> 00:03:47,490

53
00:03:47,490 --> 00:03:49,290
If you weren't dead,
you were bashed

54
00:03:49,290 --> 00:03:51,780
over the head with this club.

55
00:03:51,780 --> 00:03:54,210
This wasn't
consideration for you

56
00:03:54,210 --> 00:03:57,210
but for the man in charge
of the ovens upstairs

57
00:03:57,210 --> 00:03:58,970
who wanted his
bodies to lie still.

58
00:03:58,970 --> 00:04:01,500

59

00:04:01,500 --> 00:04:04,770

We had color film and could
not photograph interiors,

60

00:04:04,770 --> 00:04:08,010

but you get the idea.

61

00:04:08,010 --> 00:04:12,780

There were two ovens, each with
a capacity for six persons.

62

00:04:12,780 --> 00:04:17,640

Only 150 to 200 persons
a day could be cremated.

63

00:04:17,640 --> 00:04:19,470

You would be
surprised how hard it

64

00:04:19,470 --> 00:04:22,620

is to dispose off human bodies.

65

00:04:22,620 --> 00:04:25,800

The Germans used lime
pits, too, but this was

66

00:04:25,800 --> 00:04:29,130

at a kommando or subsidiary.

67

00:04:29,130 --> 00:04:33,150

There are about 70 persons
represented in this pile, which

68

00:04:33,150 --> 00:04:36,720

makes excellent fertilizer.

69

00:04:36,720 --> 00:04:40,830

This man was an editor
of a newspaper in Warsaw.

70

00:04:40,830 --> 00:04:43,410

He is showing us where

Nazi hit him in the mouth

71

00:04:43,410 --> 00:04:45,480
with a rifle butt.

72

00:04:45,480 --> 00:04:47,970
He seems to be in good
control of himself,

73

00:04:47,970 --> 00:04:51,660
but as he recall the time the
Nazis came for him, when they

74

00:04:51,660 --> 00:04:55,500
took his two-year-old child and
stamped on his chest and shot

75

00:04:55,500 --> 00:04:58,350
his wife before his
eyes for protesting,

76

00:04:58,350 --> 00:05:02,200
he became hysterical.

77

00:05:02,200 --> 00:05:04,490
We were determined that
the people of Weimar

78

00:05:04,490 --> 00:05:07,780
see the sample of their culture,
and we marched 3,000 of them

79

00:05:07,780 --> 00:05:09,370
to the camp.

80

00:05:09,370 --> 00:05:09,970
They saw.

81

00:05:09,970 --> 00:06:04,960

82

00:06:04,960 --> 00:06:07,120

These are not
pieces of parchment.

83
00:06:07,120 --> 00:06:09,310
They are human skins.

84
00:06:09,310 --> 00:06:13,060
They were used to bind
books and make lampshades.

85
00:06:13,060 --> 00:06:16,740
Here are a man's breasts
for the doubtful.

86
00:06:16,740 --> 00:06:21,460
The best samples were sent away,
of course, but a lamp remained.

87
00:06:21,460 --> 00:06:23,950
Some lamps were made
with human bones.

88
00:06:23,950 --> 00:06:26,830
We have to be content
with this one.

89
00:06:26,830 --> 00:06:30,730
The wife of the previous
commandant, a Madam Koch,

90
00:06:30,730 --> 00:06:33,850
was responsible for
this art development.

91
00:06:33,850 --> 00:06:37,660
She would have men stripped,
and if their tattoo pleased her,

92
00:06:37,660 --> 00:06:41,290
or as in these cases if he
thought they would please her,

93
00:06:41,290 --> 00:06:44,020

the men would be killed
and the skin treated.

94
00:06:44,020 --> 00:06:46,840
This is a photograph
of Madam Koch.

95
00:06:46,840 --> 00:06:50,560
She's 28 years old, an
excellent horse woman,

96
00:06:50,560 --> 00:06:54,340
and known for her
kindness to animals.

97
00:06:54,340 --> 00:06:56,950
Shrinking heads was a lost art.

98
00:06:56,950 --> 00:07:00,310
It was a difficult matter to
get a head to practice on,

99
00:07:00,310 --> 00:07:01,690
but the Germans licked that.

100
00:07:01,690 --> 00:08:27,570

101
00:08:27,570 --> 00:08:30,420
They claim they didn't
know this existed.

102
00:08:30,420 --> 00:08:34,590
Perhaps, but this camp is
many miles long and broad

103
00:08:34,590 --> 00:08:37,110
on the outskirts of the city.

104
00:08:37,110 --> 00:08:39,630
What did they think was here?

105

00:08:39,630 --> 00:08:42,840

And what of the 2 million
SS men with brothers

106

00:08:42,840 --> 00:08:45,090

and sisters and sweethearts?

107

00:08:45,090 --> 00:08:47,280

They must have known.

108

00:08:47,280 --> 00:08:49,140

How many millions
must know something

109

00:08:49,140 --> 00:08:51,810

before it isn't a secret?

110

00:08:51,810 --> 00:08:54,000

The Germans are quite
well dressed, better

111

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:55,980

than any nation in Europe--

112

00:08:55,980 --> 00:08:59,940

sweaters from Belgium,
shirts from Czechoslovakia,

113

00:08:59,940 --> 00:09:04,350

stockings some France,
diamonds from Amsterdam.

114

00:09:04,350 --> 00:09:07,470

Here's a Belgian SS man.

115

00:09:07,470 --> 00:09:09,540

They drafted the scum
of conquered nations

116

00:09:09,540 --> 00:09:11,520

into their ranks.

117

00:09:11,520 --> 00:09:15,180
Here's a German SS lieutenant.

118
00:09:15,180 --> 00:09:19,170
Here's the Ukrainian SS man.

119
00:09:19,170 --> 00:09:22,110
This is the wife of
the local hangman.

120
00:09:22,110 --> 00:09:25,050
He left her behind
when they ran away.

121
00:09:25,050 --> 00:09:35,560
He had hung over
5,000 prisoners.

122
00:09:35,560 --> 00:09:38,690
The guards say they
were forced to kill.

123
00:09:38,690 --> 00:09:40,360
This is a lie.

124
00:09:40,360 --> 00:09:42,730
The guards in
Buchenwald enjoyed it.

125
00:09:42,730 --> 00:09:44,590
It was a huge circus.

126
00:09:44,590 --> 00:09:47,560
They made games of
killing by digging a pit

127
00:09:47,560 --> 00:09:49,360
and burying a man
to his head and then

128
00:09:49,360 --> 00:09:52,330
throwing rocks at the
head until it disappeared

129
00:09:52,330 --> 00:09:55,930
or rolling a man in a
spiked barrel down a hill

130
00:09:55,930 --> 00:10:01,870
or, as a Christmas present
in 1943, making 23,000 people

131
00:10:01,870 --> 00:10:07,480
stand in the courtyard for
26 hours, many without shoes,

132
00:10:07,480 --> 00:10:10,584
for no reason, just
Merry Christmas.

133
00:10:10,584 --> 00:10:14,300

134
00:10:14,300 --> 00:10:17,270
Here's how two American
medical corps men reacted.

135
00:10:17,270 --> 00:10:26,560

136
00:10:26,560 --> 00:10:29,110
At Dachau, we had the
Germans clear the bodies.

137
00:10:29,110 --> 00:10:55,990

138
00:10:55,990 --> 00:10:59,680
Seventy percent of all
autopsies showed tuberculosis.

139
00:10:59,680 --> 00:12:09,600

140
00:12:09,600 --> 00:12:12,840

Well, that's what it was like.

141

00:12:12,840 --> 00:12:17,190

Except for the smell, you are
now a big expert on Buchenwald.

142

00:12:17,190 --> 00:12:21,030

If anyone tells you atrocity
stories are exaggerated,

143

00:12:21,030 --> 00:12:23,100

think of these people--

144

00:12:23,100 --> 00:12:29,430

lawyers, doctors, editors,
musicians, judges.

145

00:12:29,430 --> 00:12:31,230

It's hard to believe
these people were

146

00:12:31,230 --> 00:12:35,250

rich and dignified when
their ribs are sticking out.

147

00:12:35,250 --> 00:12:40,920

And who can tell who's a Jew and
who's a Christian in this pile?

148

00:12:40,920 --> 00:12:43,740

Perhaps the man across
your dinner table

149

00:12:43,740 --> 00:12:46,140

who tells you these
things are exaggerated

150

00:12:46,140 --> 00:12:48,860

knows the difference.

151

00:12:48,860 --> 00:13:05,000