1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:13,338

2
00:00:13,338 --> 00:00:17,220
OK, so the madness.

3
00:00:17,220 --> 00:00:22,170
There was a period in
1940, at the end of 1940,

4
00:00:22,170 --> 00:00:32,950
the beginning of 1941, of
virtual chaos inside Poland.

5
00:00:32,950 --> 00:00:35,430
Despite the outward
appearance of calm

6
00:00:35,430 --> 00:00:41,070
and a structure
in being, the fact

7
00:00:41,070 --> 00:00:46,770
is that quite a few, especially
of the Stadthauptmanner,

8
00:00:46,770 --> 00:00:49,590
the German commanders
of cities, thought

9
00:00:49,590 --> 00:00:54,720
that the time had come
for their particular areas

10
00:00:54,720 --> 00:00:57,750
to be judenrein, free of Jews.

11
00:00:57,750 --> 00:00:59,640
And they began ejecting them.

12
00:00:59,640 --> 00:01:00,240
From their--

13

00:01:00,240 --> 00:01:02,010
From their own area.

14
00:01:02,010 --> 00:01:04,050
Krakow is the most
famous example,

15
00:01:04,050 --> 00:01:06,120
because Frank himself,
the Generalgouverneur,

16
00:01:06,120 --> 00:01:08,040
wanted Krakow to
be free of Jews.

17
00:01:08,040 --> 00:01:15,000
But there were other areas which
had miniature deportations,

18
00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:19,290
short distances from city
into the countryside, not just

19
00:01:19,290 --> 00:01:21,150
the other way around.

20
00:01:21,150 --> 00:01:24,735
And there might be unannounced
transports coming in,

21
00:01:24,735 --> 00:01:28,260
in one small town or another,
and frantic telephone

22
00:01:28,260 --> 00:01:30,810
calls and Fernschreiben
of various kinds

23
00:01:30,810 --> 00:01:33,210
from the Kreishauptmann
on the scene,

24
00:01:33,210 --> 00:01:35,010
asking, what do you think this?

25

00:01:35,010 --> 00:01:36,270
This is a small town.

26
00:01:36,270 --> 00:01:38,040
Are you solving your
welfare problems

27
00:01:38,040 --> 00:01:40,920
by dumping these
people on our doorstep?

28
00:01:40,920 --> 00:01:44,235
We already have a
density of six per room,

29
00:01:44,235 --> 00:01:47,090
or more than that, in
one case 20 per room.

30
00:01:47,090 --> 00:01:47,590
Jews?

31
00:01:47,590 --> 00:01:49,140
Jews, of course.

32
00:01:49,140 --> 00:01:54,720
And the constant danger of
the epidemics coming about,

33
00:01:54,720 --> 00:01:57,250
especially in wintertime
without controllability,

34
00:01:57,250 --> 00:02:00,690
no medical services,
especially in the countryside,

35
00:02:00,690 --> 00:02:02,880
was being emphasized.

36
00:02:02,880 --> 00:02:04,980
But of course,
from the standpoint

37
00:02:04,980 --> 00:02:09,630

of the higher up Germans and
Gouverneur, Generalgouverneur,

38
00:02:09,630 --> 00:02:18,060
somebody in Berlin, these were
not urgently critical things.

39
00:02:18,060 --> 00:02:20,610
This means that everyone
was trying to solve--

40
00:02:20,610 --> 00:02:23,190

41
00:02:23,190 --> 00:02:27,690
You see, there was a tendency in
Poland, and it is obvious to me

42
00:02:27,690 --> 00:02:33,220
now after studying the monthly
reports of Kreishauptmanner,

43
00:02:33,220 --> 00:02:35,220
which is a task which at
the beginning I thought

44
00:02:35,220 --> 00:02:36,660
wasn't going to
be very fruitful,

45
00:02:36,660 --> 00:02:39,450
but now reading
these reports, I can

46
00:02:39,450 --> 00:02:43,230
see there was a tendency
within a number of places,

47
00:02:43,230 --> 00:02:49,020
uncoordinated activity resulting
in miniature solutions.

48
00:02:49,020 --> 00:02:52,110
Not of killing people as yet,
for there was no organized

49
00:02:52,110 --> 00:02:54,690
killing, but of
pushing them out.

50
00:02:54,690 --> 00:02:56,940
Now, what you've got
there is a limited space,

51
00:02:56,940 --> 00:02:59,970
with people being pushed
this way and that.

52
00:02:59,970 --> 00:03:00,990
This was of course--

53
00:03:00,990 --> 00:03:02,370
Turning in circle.

54
00:03:02,370 --> 00:03:04,400
Well, virtually.

55
00:03:04,400 --> 00:03:07,620
As you push people from one
direction from here to there,

56
00:03:07,620 --> 00:03:09,660
they are denser here
than they were there.

57
00:03:09,660 --> 00:03:11,970
Then they might be pushed back.

58
00:03:11,970 --> 00:03:17,100
Indeed, this whole
business of first making

59
00:03:17,100 --> 00:03:19,590
the incorporated
territories free of Jews,

60
00:03:19,590 --> 00:03:23,700
and then making the Reich itself
free of Jews, always clothed

61

00:03:23,700 --> 00:03:26,580
in language indicating
that this was temporary.

62
00:03:26,580 --> 00:03:29,320
Indeed, the ghettos
themselves were temporary.

63
00:03:29,320 --> 00:03:36,180
All of this led to an
expectancy and anticipation

64
00:03:36,180 --> 00:03:39,360
that there had to
be a final solution.

65
00:03:39,360 --> 00:03:41,550
Because clearly a
temporary solution

66
00:03:41,550 --> 00:03:43,950
required yet another solution.

67
00:03:43,950 --> 00:03:45,810
And it wasn't going
to lead to anything,

68
00:03:45,810 --> 00:03:48,690
whether you have of a
Reservat or whether you have

69
00:03:48,690 --> 00:03:51,820
some other kind of arrangement.

70
00:03:51,820 --> 00:03:54,270
And this is also why
you'll see, for example,

71
00:03:54,270 --> 00:03:58,080
in the Łódż ghetto a
particular problem,

72
00:03:58,080 --> 00:04:01,350
and similarly so in Minsk.

73

00:04:01,350 --> 00:04:05,490
Very, very great protests
in those two cities

74
00:04:05,490 --> 00:04:08,760
once the Reich Jews
are being sent out,

75
00:04:08,760 --> 00:04:14,100
beginning of course in the
very early fall of 1941

76
00:04:14,100 --> 00:04:15,870
to these places.

77
00:04:15,870 --> 00:04:18,089
And the protest is,
what are you doing?

78
00:04:18,089 --> 00:04:20,910
The vision is of
tens of thousands

79
00:04:20,910 --> 00:04:23,700
and of hundreds of thousands
of people arriving.

80
00:04:23,700 --> 00:04:25,350
In already overcrowded--

81
00:04:25,350 --> 00:04:27,630
In already overcrowded ghettos.

82
00:04:27,630 --> 00:04:30,480
And this is why you
find in the collection,

83
00:04:30,480 --> 00:04:33,450
in the Library of Congress, the
Himmler file it's so-called,

84
00:04:33,450 --> 00:04:36,510
an extensive correspondence
by the Regierungspresident

85

00:04:36,510 --> 00:04:40,530
Uebelhoer and the German
Oberbürgermeister there,

86
00:04:40,530 --> 00:04:45,690
Ventzki, protesting the
projected arrival of a very

87
00:04:45,690 --> 00:04:47,370
large number of Reich Jews.

88
00:04:47,370 --> 00:04:51,480
Now, you have to keep in mind
that when Himmler, for example,

89
00:04:51,480 --> 00:04:55,290
is talking about 60,000 or so
Jews being sent to this one

90
00:04:55,290 --> 00:04:59,970
ghetto, he's in effect thinking
about sending about 20%,

91
00:04:59,970 --> 00:05:03,780
25% of the entire Jewish
population of the Reich just

92
00:05:03,780 --> 00:05:05,970
to this one place.

93
00:05:05,970 --> 00:05:09,360
Now, this is a place
in which already there

94
00:05:09,360 --> 00:05:13,350
are some 200,000 Jews in
4 square kilometers, which

95
00:05:13,350 --> 00:05:15,690
is a rather small territory.

96
00:05:15,690 --> 00:05:20,430
Now, as soon as Uebelhoer is
aware of this, hears about it,

97

00:05:20,430 --> 00:05:22,860
he says, why don't you
send them to Warsaw?

98
00:05:22,860 --> 00:05:26,010
My information based on
the illustrated newspapers

99
00:05:26,010 --> 00:05:28,290
that I read is that they
still have entertainment

100
00:05:28,290 --> 00:05:30,840
in the Warsaw ghetto, that
that means they certainly

101
00:05:30,840 --> 00:05:32,220
have room over there.

102
00:05:32,220 --> 00:05:34,650
Well, the Warsaw ghetto
housed 400,000 Jews

103
00:05:34,650 --> 00:05:36,990
in 1 and 1/2 square miles.

104
00:05:36,990 --> 00:05:39,930
In other words, a territory
no larger than the Łódż ghetto

105
00:05:39,930 --> 00:05:43,700
with already twice
the population.

106
00:05:43,700 --> 00:05:46,900
Well, the upshot of it is that
a compromise is being made,

107
00:05:46,900 --> 00:05:49,870
and 20,000 Jews
and 5,000 gypsies

108
00:05:49,870 --> 00:05:52,670
arrive, with the promise--

109

00:05:52,670 --> 00:05:55,720
Excuse me, but in the idea
of the bureaucrats of Berlin,

110
00:05:55,720 --> 00:05:59,200
the ghettos were like a transit.

111
00:05:59,200 --> 00:06:00,700
Absolutely, absolutely.

112
00:06:00,700 --> 00:06:02,590
In other words, the
promises, in a sense,

113
00:06:02,590 --> 00:06:06,850
exacted by the
Regierungsprasident

114
00:06:06,850 --> 00:06:09,700
or by the mayor,
the promises exacted

115
00:06:09,700 --> 00:06:13,240
that this is not going to be
a permanent state of affairs.

116
00:06:13,240 --> 00:06:16,630
Because there's a danger
of epidemics, flies,

117
00:06:16,630 --> 00:06:19,090
all kinds of things happening
from the sudden influx

118
00:06:19,090 --> 00:06:21,580
of people with waste
disposal problems.

119
00:06:21,580 --> 00:06:24,010
You have to remember,
these are cities.

120
00:06:24,010 --> 00:06:25,555
There are municipal officials.

121

00:06:25,555 --> 00:06:26,680
There are health officials.

122
00:06:26,680 --> 00:06:28,120
There are sanitation officials.

123
00:06:28,120 --> 00:06:32,050
There are traffic officials
who say we can't handle this.

124
00:06:32,050 --> 00:06:35,440
They are now thinking in
terms of operational problems.

125
00:06:35,440 --> 00:06:39,370
We cannot guarantee the safety,
the health of the people

126
00:06:39,370 --> 00:06:44,140
if so many suddenly arrive in
the midst of what is already

127
00:06:44,140 --> 00:06:45,640
a strained situation.

128
00:06:45,640 --> 00:06:47,290
Not only of the
people of the ghetto

129
00:06:47,290 --> 00:06:48,600
but of the general population.

130
00:06:48,600 --> 00:06:51,860
You can't separate it
out, because of course,

131
00:06:51,860 --> 00:06:54,670
once you have an
epidemic, the bugs that

132
00:06:54,670 --> 00:06:58,330
cause it are not asking are
you Polish, German, or Jewish.

133
00:06:58,330 --> 00:07:00,790

And this they know,
and this they act upon,

134
00:07:00,790 --> 00:07:03,400
and this they resent
and object to.

135
00:07:03,400 --> 00:07:07,780
And therefore they exact a
promise and get it that those

136
00:07:07,780 --> 00:07:11,590
Jews who will be arriving in
Łódż will be there only for one

137
00:07:11,590 --> 00:07:12,760
winter.

138
00:07:12,760 --> 00:07:15,580
And then they'll move
farther to the East,

139
00:07:15,580 --> 00:07:19,630
which is that very, very
vague, vague term that

140
00:07:19,630 --> 00:07:22,745
begins to show up more and more
and more, the [? Ostlander, ?]

141
00:07:22,745 --> 00:07:24,580
and nach dem Osten.

142
00:07:24,580 --> 00:07:27,577
And it's unclear of
course what the East is.

143
00:07:27,577 --> 00:07:29,660
It's not specified, and
for the very simple reason

144
00:07:29,660 --> 00:07:31,270
that nobody knows.

145
00:07:31,270 --> 00:07:34,600

Now, nobody knows in
September what the East means

146
00:07:34,600 --> 00:07:36,820
the following spring.

147
00:07:36,820 --> 00:07:40,750
Nobody has the faintest idea
of what the East really means.

148
00:07:40,750 --> 00:07:45,820
It is a place of an
absolute undetermination.

149
00:07:45,820 --> 00:07:47,470
Completely undetermined.

150
00:07:47,470 --> 00:07:50,050
Now, as it happened,
as it happened,

151
00:07:50,050 --> 00:07:52,240
Łódż got its relief
very quickly.

152
00:07:52,240 --> 00:07:55,990
By December, we have
the first real killing

153
00:07:55,990 --> 00:07:57,490
center in operation.

154
00:07:57,490 --> 00:08:00,205
The gas van operated Kulmhof.

155
00:08:00,205 --> 00:08:01,150
Chelmno.

156
00:08:01,150 --> 00:08:03,990
Chelmno death camp.

157
00:08:03,990 --> 00:08:09,160
And from there, the
Jews are being--

158
00:08:09,160 --> 00:08:14,320
Jews are being sent from Łódż,
from the surrounding Warthegau

159
00:08:14,320 --> 00:08:17,550
ghetto to this one
camp to be gassed,

160
00:08:17,550 --> 00:08:20,220
so that by spring there
are already many dead.

161
00:08:20,220 --> 00:08:23,670

162
00:08:23,670 --> 00:08:29,090
This means that there is an
extraordinary acceleration

163
00:08:29,090 --> 00:08:31,250
of the process.

164
00:08:31,250 --> 00:08:34,490
The acceleration
of history is such

165
00:08:34,490 --> 00:08:39,200
that we sit here many
decades afterwards,

166
00:08:39,200 --> 00:08:44,930
talking about each month, each
week, and each day as pivotal,

167
00:08:44,930 --> 00:08:47,290
as a turning point.

168
00:08:47,290 --> 00:08:51,250
Because very seldom are there
events of such magnitude

169
00:08:51,250 --> 00:08:53,860
that happen in such a
short space of time.

170
00:08:53,860 --> 00:08:55,510
This was such a time.

171
00:08:55,510 --> 00:08:57,570
They happened then.

172
00:08:57,570 --> 00:09:01,470
Yes, but I was so struck
when I was Chelmno to think,

173
00:09:01,470 --> 00:09:06,540
when I started to think that
between the Evian Conference

174
00:09:06,540 --> 00:09:11,430
in 1938 and the first
gassing, gassing with the gas

175
00:09:11,430 --> 00:09:15,460
vans in Chelmno, there is hardly
three years which have passed.

176
00:09:15,460 --> 00:09:16,000
Three years.

177
00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:17,250
There were hardly three years.

178
00:09:17,250 --> 00:09:23,070
And one may add to that by 1944,
when the Germans enter Hungary,

179
00:09:23,070 --> 00:09:26,010
still finding a Jewish
population intact,

180
00:09:26,010 --> 00:09:29,430
the Hungarian Jews begin to
be gassed barely three months

181
00:09:29,430 --> 00:09:30,430
afterwards.

182
00:09:30,430 --> 00:09:34,410

So the period elapsing from
almost complete normalcy

183
00:09:34,410 --> 00:09:38,370
to death is not even 90 days.

184
00:09:38,370 --> 00:09:40,680
And that is yet
another acceleration,

185
00:09:40,680 --> 00:09:43,560
and shows the manner in which
the destruction process not

186
00:09:43,560 --> 00:09:48,510
only picks up speed, but also
how efficiency is growing

187
00:09:48,510 --> 00:09:51,870
as the structure is in place
and expectations are firmed up,

188
00:09:51,870 --> 00:09:53,707
and everyone knows
what is to be done.

189
00:09:53,707 --> 00:09:54,790
There is no more guessing.

190
00:09:54,790 --> 00:09:56,340
Yes, in 1944.

191
00:09:56,340 --> 00:09:57,090
Absolutely.

192
00:09:57,090 --> 00:09:58,290
By then it is.

193
00:09:58,290 --> 00:09:58,920
By then it is.

194
00:09:58,920 --> 00:10:04,560
But in 1940, in 1941, that was
the period of experimentation.

195
00:10:04,560 --> 00:10:06,760
And that was the point
at which transports

196
00:10:06,760 --> 00:10:10,650
seemed to be moving almost,
almost aimlessly just

197
00:10:10,650 --> 00:10:15,620
in a rather general
direction-- the East.

198
00:10:15,620 --> 00:10:18,845
Now, of course for Heydrich in
the Reichssicherheitshauptamt

199
00:10:18,845 --> 00:10:22,130
it is clear what the East
means in a narrow sense.

200
00:10:22,130 --> 00:10:23,780
It means the area
in which he has

201
00:10:23,780 --> 00:10:26,840
his Einsatzgruppen, who were
already killing Jews in Russia.

202
00:10:26,840 --> 00:10:29,780
It is the area where
the Einsatzgruppen

203
00:10:29,780 --> 00:10:32,360
have been exceptionally active.

204
00:10:32,360 --> 00:10:36,770
And that means Latvia,
Lithuania, White Russia.

205
00:10:36,770 --> 00:10:37,730
Ukraine.

206
00:10:37,730 --> 00:10:40,310
Also the Ukraine, except
there are no Jews going there

207
00:10:40,310 --> 00:10:41,160
from Germany.

208
00:10:41,160 --> 00:10:41,660
Yes.

209
00:10:41,660 --> 00:10:45,080
But they are going in
the northern direction.

210
00:10:45,080 --> 00:10:49,440
They are going not as many
as originally envisaged.

211
00:10:49,440 --> 00:10:53,630
One was talking about 50,000
going to Riga and Minsk.

212
00:10:53,630 --> 00:10:55,220
There were fewer.

213
00:10:55,220 --> 00:10:59,030
But as we have
seen, they do arrive

214
00:10:59,030 --> 00:11:01,730
beginning in November
and in December,

215
00:11:01,730 --> 00:11:03,180
in all of those places.

216
00:11:03,180 --> 00:11:05,430
And of course, there
were protests there, too.

217
00:11:05,430 --> 00:11:06,870
"We don't want them."

218
00:11:06,870 --> 00:11:09,200
But they arrive.

219
00:11:09,200 --> 00:11:11,630

Finally, of course, one
realizes that this is not--

220
00:11:11,630 --> 00:11:14,270

221
00:11:14,270 --> 00:11:15,220
This is not?

222
00:11:15,220 --> 00:11:21,070

223
00:11:21,070 --> 00:11:23,410
(film slating)

224
00:11:23,410 --> 00:11:25,540

225
00:11:25,540 --> 00:11:31,030
When they shipped the Reich
Jews to the East, to Riga,

226
00:11:31,030 --> 00:11:35,680
Minsk, to Kovno
on the territories

227
00:11:35,680 --> 00:11:39,670
where the Einsatzgruppen are
operating in order to have them

228
00:11:39,670 --> 00:11:40,670
killed--

229
00:11:40,670 --> 00:11:42,180
That's right.

230
00:11:42,180 --> 00:11:46,750
The Einsatzgruppen, and they
just kill a certain number,

231
00:11:46,750 --> 00:11:51,160
except in Minsk which
is a special case.

232

00:11:51,160 --> 00:11:55,930
And why do they change?

233
00:11:55,930 --> 00:11:59,740
Well, in general, the
continuous killing

234
00:11:59,740 --> 00:12:03,940
was beginning to show
some psychological effects

235
00:12:03,940 --> 00:12:06,970
on members of the
Einsatzgruppen.

236
00:12:06,970 --> 00:12:10,570
You must remember that
they were not 18-year-olds.

237
00:12:10,570 --> 00:12:11,860
They were not 19-year-olds.

238
00:12:11,860 --> 00:12:17,350
They were generally a little
bit above the average age

239
00:12:17,350 --> 00:12:21,550
of SS personnel, not
sent to frontline duty

240
00:12:21,550 --> 00:12:24,760
but fit for this
particular task.

241
00:12:24,760 --> 00:12:26,620
A rather large
percentage of them

242
00:12:26,620 --> 00:12:29,020
already had wives and children.

243
00:12:29,020 --> 00:12:32,950
And the continuous
killing of whole families

244

00:12:32,950 --> 00:12:36,040
was beginning to have a
psychological effect on them,

245
00:12:36,040 --> 00:12:38,380
a seelische Belastung,
as they would say.

246
00:12:38,380 --> 00:12:42,640
And therefore, already quite
early during the killings

247
00:12:42,640 --> 00:12:46,250
the Reichssicherheitshauptamt,
the Reichs security

248
00:12:46,250 --> 00:12:51,610
main office, constructed a gas
van for the specific purpose

249
00:12:51,610 --> 00:12:55,030
of permitting the killing
of women and children

250
00:12:55,030 --> 00:12:58,870
to take place in a manner
that would not directly

251
00:12:58,870 --> 00:13:03,520
involve these people.

252
00:13:03,520 --> 00:13:06,490
You think it is the reason
why the gas vans were--

253
00:13:06,490 --> 00:13:08,350
I'm quite sure that
that is the reason,

254
00:13:08,350 --> 00:13:10,810
because the capacity
of them was limited.

255
00:13:10,810 --> 00:13:13,420
About 70 people
at the most could

256
00:13:13,420 --> 00:13:15,880
be placed inside such of a van.

257
00:13:15,880 --> 00:13:20,440
And they were used especially
at the beginning exclusively

258
00:13:20,440 --> 00:13:22,060
for women and children.

259
00:13:22,060 --> 00:13:25,210
Indeed, that was also
their use in Serbia,

260
00:13:25,210 --> 00:13:27,010
where the German army
would be shooting

261
00:13:27,010 --> 00:13:30,070
the entire Jewish
male population,

262
00:13:30,070 --> 00:13:33,700
but refused to dirty its hands
with the killing of women

263
00:13:33,700 --> 00:13:35,092
and children.

264
00:13:35,092 --> 00:13:36,050
You mean the Wehrmacht?

265
00:13:36,050 --> 00:13:36,660
That's right.

266
00:13:36,660 --> 00:13:38,140
The Wehrmacht, the Wehrmacht.

267
00:13:38,140 --> 00:13:43,240
So we find the gas van
turning up in the Ukraine,

268
00:13:43,240 --> 00:13:46,900

in various parts of the
occupied Soviet Union.

269
00:13:46,900 --> 00:13:49,720
We find them turning
up outside of Belgrade.

270
00:13:49,720 --> 00:13:53,740
And now third, they
turn up near Łódż.

271
00:13:53,740 --> 00:13:55,660
And they form the
nucleus and the center

272
00:13:55,660 --> 00:13:58,900
of the first real
operating killing center.

273
00:13:58,900 --> 00:14:00,550
That is to say, Chelmno.

274
00:14:00,550 --> 00:14:04,600
Could you talk a little bit more
about these psychological side

275
00:14:04,600 --> 00:14:08,020
effects of the mass killings
by the Einsatzgruppen?

276
00:14:08,020 --> 00:14:10,750
This so-called
seelische Belastung?

277
00:14:10,750 --> 00:14:14,170
We know generally
about this effect,

278
00:14:14,170 --> 00:14:17,080
because it appears
in the documents.

279
00:14:17,080 --> 00:14:19,270
And there was a
rather famous incident

280
00:14:19,270 --> 00:14:24,730
in which we find Himmler himself
visiting Minsk and wishing

281
00:14:24,730 --> 00:14:27,850
to be shown a typical
operation, as they called it,

282
00:14:27,850 --> 00:14:32,710
and virtually becoming
sick at the sight of it.

283
00:14:32,710 --> 00:14:35,320
One of the generals
who was with him,

284
00:14:35,320 --> 00:14:39,280
Obergruppenführer von dem
Bach-Zelewski then said to him,

285
00:14:39,280 --> 00:14:43,915
now Reichsführer,
these were only 100.

286
00:14:43,915 --> 00:14:48,490
And Himmler answers, well, what
do you mean by that statement?

287
00:14:48,490 --> 00:14:51,130
Whereupon Von Dem
Bach said, look

288
00:14:51,130 --> 00:14:53,650
what is happening to our men.

289
00:14:53,650 --> 00:14:57,550
They either become
Nervenkranke or Rohlinge.

290
00:14:57,550 --> 00:15:00,190
They either are going to
have nervous breakdowns,

291
00:15:00,190 --> 00:15:03,100
or they're going

to become savages.

292
00:15:03,100 --> 00:15:06,130
Himmler was quite affected
by that statement,

293
00:15:06,130 --> 00:15:07,900
and he mounted a
truck and delivered

294
00:15:07,900 --> 00:15:11,920
his famous Darwinian speech to
the Einsatzgruppen personnel

295
00:15:11,920 --> 00:15:13,930
in which he said,
yes, it is true,

296
00:15:13,930 --> 00:15:18,580
every living thing has a purpose
in life, including the bedbug.

297
00:15:18,580 --> 00:15:21,400
But this does not mean that
man does not defend himself

298
00:15:21,400 --> 00:15:23,050
against a bedbug.

299
00:15:23,050 --> 00:15:24,850
And what these people
were supposed to do

300
00:15:24,850 --> 00:15:27,820
was, of course, defending
the German nation

301
00:15:27,820 --> 00:15:32,640
from this particular
parasitical form of life.

302
00:15:32,640 --> 00:15:36,590
However, the import
of what had transpired

303

00:15:36,590 --> 00:15:41,240
at Minsk and in other places
was not lost on the SS.

304
00:15:41,240 --> 00:15:43,970
And they did begin to
look for a means which

305
00:15:43,970 --> 00:15:47,180
would be less direct,
which would eliminate

306
00:15:47,180 --> 00:15:51,170
the face-to-face confrontation
between perpetrator and victim,

307
00:15:51,170 --> 00:15:55,820
because that constituted a
burden, a psychological burden

308
00:15:55,820 --> 00:15:58,837
which would be
hard to cope with.

309
00:15:58,837 --> 00:16:00,420
And that's one of
the reasons at least

310
00:16:00,420 --> 00:16:05,550
for the enclosures, the camps,
the chambers being constructed.

311
00:16:05,550 --> 00:16:07,790
Who was the first to get the--

312
00:16:07,790 --> 00:16:12,570
to invent the idea
of the gas vans?

313
00:16:12,570 --> 00:16:15,810
This was the technical
referat of the Reich security

314
00:16:15,810 --> 00:16:17,340
main office.

315
00:16:17,340 --> 00:16:22,770
These were engineers in
that technical division.

316
00:16:22,770 --> 00:16:27,990
People like Rauff, R-A-U-F-F,
subsequently disappeared

317
00:16:27,990 --> 00:16:29,070
in South America.

318
00:16:29,070 --> 00:16:29,940
He's still alive?

319
00:16:29,940 --> 00:16:36,320
Yes, Yes And this was a
modest contribution of theirs

320
00:16:36,320 --> 00:16:38,350
in an interim phase
of the killing

321
00:16:38,350 --> 00:16:41,200
operations between shootings
and the final establishment

322
00:16:41,200 --> 00:16:43,880
of real stationary gas chambers.

323
00:16:43,880 --> 00:16:47,590
It was really a
transitional phase.

324
00:16:47,590 --> 00:16:49,910
And as I said, we
find it in Russia.

325
00:16:49,910 --> 00:16:52,240
We find it in Belgrade.

326
00:16:52,240 --> 00:16:55,750
And we find it also for the
Jews of the Warthegau, Łódż,

327

00:16:55,750 --> 00:16:56,890
and surrounding ghettos.

328
00:16:56,890 --> 00:16:57,750
Chelmno.

329
00:16:57,750 --> 00:16:58,270
Chelmno.

330
00:16:58,270 --> 00:16:58,870
That's right.

331
00:16:58,870 --> 00:17:00,220
We find it there.

332
00:17:00,220 --> 00:17:04,240
And this is the one place
where the vans are stationary

333
00:17:04,240 --> 00:17:06,950
and operate for a while,
as they do in fact,

334
00:17:06,950 --> 00:17:09,790
also assembling
outside of Belgrade.

335
00:17:09,790 --> 00:17:13,220
But it seems that they had
problems with the gas vans too,

336
00:17:13,220 --> 00:17:15,970
They had problems, yeah.

337
00:17:15,970 --> 00:17:17,589
They had problems.

338
00:17:17,589 --> 00:17:20,770
There is a correspondence
between one

339
00:17:20,770 --> 00:17:25,119
of the engineers,
Becher and the people

340
00:17:25,119 --> 00:17:28,390
who were operating the gas
vans, where he instructs them

341
00:17:28,390 --> 00:17:31,750
how to use.

342
00:17:31,750 --> 00:17:34,630
Well, it was a new piece of
machinery, as far as this goes.

343
00:17:34,630 --> 00:17:36,370
It may not have been
working perfectly.

344
00:17:36,370 --> 00:17:40,900
And you can imagine the mess if
the job wasn't done properly.

345
00:17:40,900 --> 00:17:44,500
But on the whole, I think it
did work, despite problems.

346
00:17:44,500 --> 00:17:49,900
And yet its capacity was
insufficient for the larger

347
00:17:49,900 --> 00:17:52,420
final solution of the Jewish
question, which ultimately was

348
00:17:52,420 --> 00:17:54,290
to involve millions of people.

349
00:17:54,290 --> 00:17:56,860
So if you killed 70
at a time and you

350
00:17:56,860 --> 00:18:01,210
have to motor for at least
20 minutes to do the job--

351
00:18:01,210 --> 00:18:04,420
Do you think that the
seelische Belastung

352
00:18:04,420 --> 00:18:07,150
was the only reason
why they couldn't

353
00:18:07,150 --> 00:18:09,400
use the Einsatzgruppen
in order to solve

354
00:18:09,400 --> 00:18:11,690
the Jewish question as a whole?

355
00:18:11,690 --> 00:18:14,740
I mean, as a final solution to
kill the Jews from the West,

356
00:18:14,740 --> 00:18:16,240
from every place?

357
00:18:16,240 --> 00:18:17,620
I think there was another--

358
00:18:17,620 --> 00:18:19,480
well, several other
considerations.

359
00:18:19,480 --> 00:18:21,040
One of them was transport.

360
00:18:21,040 --> 00:18:23,087
You have to consider
that the farther East

361
00:18:23,087 --> 00:18:24,670
the Jews were going
to be transported,

362
00:18:24,670 --> 00:18:27,210
the greater the cost.

363
00:18:27,210 --> 00:18:29,380
We know that transport
was a consideration

364

00:18:29,380 --> 00:18:32,770
because at one point
there is correspondence

365
00:18:32,770 --> 00:18:36,115
about establishing a death camp
on French-occupied territory

366
00:18:36,115 --> 00:18:40,390
in Alsace-Lorraine with
a view to just reducing

367
00:18:40,390 --> 00:18:42,220
the cost of
transporting the Jews

368
00:18:42,220 --> 00:18:43,810
to their final destination.

369
00:18:43,810 --> 00:18:46,390
I'm certain that, for instance,
the selection of Auschwitz

370
00:18:46,390 --> 00:18:47,890
had a great deal
to do with the fact

371
00:18:47,890 --> 00:18:51,460
that the camp was going to
be located near a railway

372
00:18:51,460 --> 00:18:52,870
junction.

373
00:18:52,870 --> 00:18:56,950
And for that, I
think, we have to owe

374
00:18:56,950 --> 00:19:00,760
the existence of these
camps in an accessible area,

375
00:19:00,760 --> 00:19:03,800
not too costly for
transport purposes.

376
00:19:03,800 --> 00:19:06,430
So there were a variety
of considerations.

377
00:19:06,430 --> 00:19:08,890
There are administrative
considerations as well.

378
00:19:08,890 --> 00:19:13,420
With whom was this
task to be entrusted?

379
00:19:13,420 --> 00:19:19,700
What were the problems going
to be of housing people

380
00:19:19,700 --> 00:19:20,810
upon arrival?

381
00:19:20,810 --> 00:19:22,730
By housing I don't
mean anything fancy,

382
00:19:22,730 --> 00:19:25,790
but the usual
difficulty encountered

383
00:19:25,790 --> 00:19:29,480
in the various ghettos when
transports arrived unannounced,

384
00:19:29,480 --> 00:19:31,730
and density rose
sharply, and people

385
00:19:31,730 --> 00:19:37,970
were starving or otherwise
frozen on the streets.

386
00:19:37,970 --> 00:19:40,580
That had to be taken
care of administratively.

387
00:19:40,580 --> 00:19:42,530
And that required

camp construction.

388
00:19:42,530 --> 00:19:46,140
Yes, this means the task
was already too heavy.

389
00:19:46,140 --> 00:19:47,060
That's correct.

390
00:19:47,060 --> 00:19:48,210
It was too much.

391
00:19:48,210 --> 00:19:52,220
You have to remember, all four
Einsatzgruppen total 3,000 men.

392
00:19:52,220 --> 00:19:53,330
All four of them.

393
00:19:53,330 --> 00:19:54,650
That's all.

394
00:19:54,650 --> 00:19:58,040
So even if we add the native
collaborators, the Lithuanians,

395
00:19:58,040 --> 00:20:00,410
the Latvians, the
Ukrainians, that's still

396
00:20:00,410 --> 00:20:02,240
was not sufficient.

397
00:20:02,240 --> 00:20:05,330
And the camp structure,
I think, was an answer.

398
00:20:05,330 --> 00:20:07,343
There was yet a
third reason, which

399
00:20:07,343 --> 00:20:08,510
I think should be mentioned.

400

00:20:08,510 --> 00:20:11,570
And that is that Einsatzgruppen
operations by definition

401
00:20:11,570 --> 00:20:12,890
were in the open.

402
00:20:12,890 --> 00:20:16,160
There were all sorts of people
present, unauthorized people,

403
00:20:16,160 --> 00:20:19,040
army people who were
taking photographs,

404
00:20:19,040 --> 00:20:20,900
or at least observed
these proceedings

405
00:20:20,900 --> 00:20:22,462
and wrote home about them.

406
00:20:22,462 --> 00:20:24,170
We know that this
happened, because there

407
00:20:24,170 --> 00:20:27,260
was correspondence regarding
censorship and the need

408
00:20:27,260 --> 00:20:30,450
to undercut the
flow of information.

409
00:20:30,450 --> 00:20:33,800
In fact, the German
nation first discovers

410
00:20:33,800 --> 00:20:36,920
the fact of the final
solution from these reports.

411
00:20:36,920 --> 00:20:39,830
There are so numerous, and they
come to so many different parts

412
00:20:39,830 --> 00:20:43,610
of Germany that we have
Dompropst Lichtenberg in Berlin

413
00:20:43,610 --> 00:20:48,140
already in 1941 talking
rather openly in a sermon

414
00:20:48,140 --> 00:20:51,230
in the fall of 1941 about this.

415
00:20:51,230 --> 00:20:54,230
And he's doing this in the
St. Hedwig's Cathedral.

416
00:20:54,230 --> 00:20:55,940
And how, and why is he doing it?

417
00:20:55,940 --> 00:20:57,540
Because he knows about it.

418
00:20:57,540 --> 00:20:58,730
That's the first reason.

419
00:20:58,730 --> 00:20:59,690
He knows about it.

420
00:20:59,690 --> 00:21:02,150
And he knows about it
from an information flow

421
00:21:02,150 --> 00:21:04,220
that is simply unstoppable.

422
00:21:04,220 --> 00:21:05,270
Everybody sees it.

423
00:21:05,270 --> 00:21:06,590
Everybody observes it.

424
00:21:06,590 --> 00:21:08,910
Everybody's writing
home about it.

425
00:21:08,910 --> 00:21:11,840
And from that standpoint, it
was much too much in the open.

426
00:21:11,840 --> 00:21:14,210
It was called theatrical.

427
00:21:14,210 --> 00:21:16,220
It was theater.

428
00:21:16,220 --> 00:21:18,440
And that had to be stopped.

429
00:21:18,440 --> 00:21:21,480
So an enclosure was
absolutely essential.

430
00:21:21,480 --> 00:21:23,990
Some sort of secrecy.

431
00:21:23,990 --> 00:21:27,320
At this stage, there
were no secrets yet.

432
00:21:27,320 --> 00:21:30,590
I think-- no, I think it
was very much in the open.

433
00:21:30,590 --> 00:21:32,930
I think even Swiss
ambulance drivers were aware

434
00:21:32,930 --> 00:21:36,710
of it, so that even in
Switzerland this news was

435
00:21:36,710 --> 00:21:37,430
received.

436
00:21:37,430 --> 00:21:40,410
It was much, much, much to open.

437
00:21:40,410 --> 00:21:42,390
In a sense, of course

what they were doing is

438
00:21:42,390 --> 00:21:45,870
they were closing the door after
the information had gotten out.

439
00:21:45,870 --> 00:21:51,060
But all the same, they went
ahead and progressively imposed

440
00:21:51,060 --> 00:21:52,950
more and more secrecy.

441
00:21:52,950 --> 00:21:55,650
Not very successfully, to
be sure, but more secrecy.

442
00:21:55,650 --> 00:21:57,610
Yes, but this is a
very interesting point,

443
00:21:57,610 --> 00:22:02,720
how the secrecy suddenly
comes into the picture.

444
00:22:02,720 --> 00:22:04,190
Well, the secrecy--

445
00:22:04,190 --> 00:22:06,250
Because it is a
false secrecy, too.

446
00:22:06,250 --> 00:22:07,460
It's a false secrecy.

447
00:22:07,460 --> 00:22:09,080
But you see, it
doesn't have to be.

448
00:22:09,080 --> 00:22:11,370
It doesn't have to be complete.

449
00:22:11,370 --> 00:22:14,840
I think that the first and
foremost operational reason

450
00:22:14,840 --> 00:22:17,930
for secrecy was that
the victim should not

451
00:22:17,930 --> 00:22:19,587
know what is happening to him.

452
00:22:19,587 --> 00:22:27,230

453
00:22:27,230 --> 00:22:29,034
(film slating)

454
00:22:29,034 --> 00:22:31,380

455
00:22:31,380 --> 00:22:39,890
This question of secrecy is
very difficult and puzzling.

456
00:22:39,890 --> 00:22:42,840
Because as we said
rightly in Russia

457
00:22:42,840 --> 00:22:46,280
they killed the
Jews in the open.

458
00:22:46,280 --> 00:22:47,600
They didn't hide themselves.

459
00:22:47,600 --> 00:22:49,280
Everybody knew.

460
00:22:49,280 --> 00:22:51,380
It is the same in Poland.

461
00:22:51,380 --> 00:22:56,210
In the killing centers, all the
Poles knew what was going on,

462
00:22:56,210 --> 00:23:00,620
all the Poles of

the villages around.

463
00:23:00,620 --> 00:23:01,430
They knew.

464
00:23:01,430 --> 00:23:02,330
They saw.

465
00:23:02,330 --> 00:23:03,560
They heard.

466
00:23:03,560 --> 00:23:05,390
Or even they smelled.

467
00:23:05,390 --> 00:23:11,360
And it seems that this was not
a problem at all for the Nazi.

468
00:23:11,360 --> 00:23:12,920
They didn't care.

469
00:23:12,920 --> 00:23:14,570
And they didn't try to hide.

470
00:23:14,570 --> 00:23:19,850
And the Poles, of course, knew
everything about the ghetto,

471
00:23:19,850 --> 00:23:22,150
how about the ghetto life.

472
00:23:22,150 --> 00:23:28,540
Well, in Germany obviously they
didn't want the information

473
00:23:28,540 --> 00:23:33,460
about the killing to be known.

474
00:23:33,460 --> 00:23:42,340
And in the same time,
the actual killers,

475
00:23:42,340 --> 00:23:49,680
the guards of the extermination

camps, were Geheimnistrager.

476
00:23:49,680 --> 00:23:53,950
This means they had
to keep the secret.

477
00:23:53,950 --> 00:23:55,470
They were not supposed to talk.

478
00:23:55,470 --> 00:23:58,140
They were not allowed to talk.

479
00:23:58,140 --> 00:24:01,500
And it is a reason
why I ask you,

480
00:24:01,500 --> 00:24:04,380
what is the real
meaning of this secrecy?

481
00:24:04,380 --> 00:24:06,270
Was the secrecy complete?

482
00:24:06,270 --> 00:24:09,070
What did they want to hide?

483
00:24:09,070 --> 00:24:17,160
And how did they want
to handle the whole?

484
00:24:17,160 --> 00:24:20,850
I don't think that secrecy
had to be complete.

485
00:24:20,850 --> 00:24:23,280
Secrecy was for the
Germans essentially

486
00:24:23,280 --> 00:24:26,590
a quantitative problem.

487
00:24:26,590 --> 00:24:28,960
That's very difficult
to imagine nowadays,

488
00:24:28,960 --> 00:24:31,210
because one thinks of
secrecy as something

489
00:24:31,210 --> 00:24:35,540
that keeps a bit of
information from other people.

490
00:24:35,540 --> 00:24:38,110
And if that is not
being accomplished,

491
00:24:38,110 --> 00:24:41,850
then the subject matter is
supposedly no longer secret.

492
00:24:41,850 --> 00:24:44,337
However, in this case,
we must remember--

493
00:24:44,337 --> 00:24:50,420

494
00:24:50,420 --> 00:24:51,850
(film slating)

495
00:24:51,850 --> 00:24:52,930

496
00:24:52,930 --> 00:25:01,500
Well, this question of secrecy
is very, very difficult.

497
00:25:01,500 --> 00:25:04,560
Because you say
that in Russia they

498
00:25:04,560 --> 00:25:08,910
killed the Jews in the open.

499
00:25:08,910 --> 00:25:11,940
Everybody knew it, the
Russians themselves

500

00:25:11,940 --> 00:25:18,370
and the soldiers
of the Wehrmacht.

501
00:25:18,370 --> 00:25:22,930
OK, in Poland they built
the killing centers.

502
00:25:22,930 --> 00:25:26,530
But there is no secrecy
at all in Poland,

503
00:25:26,530 --> 00:25:30,710
because they don't hide
themselves from the Poles.

504
00:25:30,710 --> 00:25:33,330
All the Poles know
what is going on.

505
00:25:33,330 --> 00:25:36,910
First of all, they
know about the ghetto.

506
00:25:36,910 --> 00:25:40,970
And when the killing
centers start to operate,

507
00:25:40,970 --> 00:25:44,370
whether it is Chelmno,
Treblinka, Sobibor,

508
00:25:44,370 --> 00:25:48,710
Belzec, all the Poles
of the villages around,

509
00:25:48,710 --> 00:25:50,480
they know absolutely everything.

510
00:25:50,480 --> 00:25:51,140
They see.

511
00:25:51,140 --> 00:25:51,830
They hear.

512

00:25:51,830 --> 00:25:53,210
They smell.

513
00:25:53,210 --> 00:25:56,060
And one has the feeling
that the Germans

514
00:25:56,060 --> 00:25:59,900
don't care at all about the
fact that the Poles know.

515
00:25:59,900 --> 00:26:02,300
It is not a problem.

516
00:26:02,300 --> 00:26:04,350
Well, we have this fact.

517
00:26:04,350 --> 00:26:07,400
We have a second
fact that it seems

518
00:26:07,400 --> 00:26:14,900
to be true that in Germany
they have to keep the secrecy.

519
00:26:14,900 --> 00:26:20,420
The actual killers
are Geheimnistrager.

520
00:26:20,420 --> 00:26:22,580
This means they carry a
secret, and they are not

521
00:26:22,580 --> 00:26:25,700
supposed to talk about this,
about what is going on,

522
00:26:25,700 --> 00:26:28,070
what they are doing.

523
00:26:28,070 --> 00:26:30,500
But it seems to be
a complete fake,

524
00:26:30,500 --> 00:26:36,200

because I don't know how
many millions of Poles

525
00:26:36,200 --> 00:26:37,800
will know everything.

526
00:26:37,800 --> 00:26:41,265
And there are even the
soldiers of the Wehrmacht

527
00:26:41,265 --> 00:26:46,770
who are passing near
the extermination sites,

528
00:26:46,770 --> 00:26:49,680
because the
extermination sites are

529
00:26:49,680 --> 00:26:53,680
built from the railway tracks.

530
00:26:53,680 --> 00:26:57,520
We tend to think of
secrecy as something

531
00:26:57,520 --> 00:27:04,990
that there is a fact kept
locked up from all those

532
00:27:04,990 --> 00:27:09,020
who are not supposed
to know, or else

533
00:27:09,020 --> 00:27:12,320
once the door is opened
a crack, the information

534
00:27:12,320 --> 00:27:16,300
flows out like a gas and
permeates all Europe.

535
00:27:16,300 --> 00:27:17,810
We tend to think in those ways.

536
00:27:17,810 --> 00:27:22,790

We believe that something
either is or is not a secret.

537
00:27:22,790 --> 00:27:28,900
We don't stop to think that
something can be a secret,

538
00:27:28,900 --> 00:27:33,250
and yet be known by a
large number of people,

539
00:27:33,250 --> 00:27:37,060
that it is a quantitative
problem, that it

540
00:27:37,060 --> 00:27:39,790
is a problem of the
degree of knowledge,

541
00:27:39,790 --> 00:27:42,580
and that it is a problem of the
degree to which the knowledge

542
00:27:42,580 --> 00:27:44,694
is being believed.

543
00:27:44,694 --> 00:27:45,520
Mm-hmm.

544
00:27:45,520 --> 00:27:50,530
Now, you have to remember that
the twofold reason for secrecy

545
00:27:50,530 --> 00:27:56,720
was, in the first instance,
that the more information would

546
00:27:56,720 --> 00:28:01,080
be freely circulating
about these killings,

547
00:28:01,080 --> 00:28:06,000
the more questions might
arise about conscience,

548

00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:07,830
about morality.

549
00:28:07,830 --> 00:28:12,340
So the talk itself
was out of bounds.

550
00:28:12,340 --> 00:28:15,000
And this is the reason also why
in the secret correspondence,

551
00:28:15,000 --> 00:28:18,240
where one knowing
perpetrator writes

552
00:28:18,240 --> 00:28:21,150
to another knowing
perpetrator, there

553
00:28:21,150 --> 00:28:24,450
is still no mention
specifically of killings.

554
00:28:24,450 --> 00:28:27,300
It's always "Juden
sind ja abgewandert,"

555
00:28:27,300 --> 00:28:30,900
or "Sonderbehandelt geworden,"
something of this kind.

556
00:28:30,900 --> 00:28:35,160
There's a euphemistic
language being employed

557
00:28:35,160 --> 00:28:37,140
rather than the direct word.

558
00:28:37,140 --> 00:28:39,480
And this happens
even between people

559
00:28:39,480 --> 00:28:42,190
who know what is going on.

560

00:28:42,190 --> 00:28:45,690
So here we see the
psychological function.

561
00:28:45,690 --> 00:28:47,423
The secrecy in their own eyes.

562
00:28:47,423 --> 00:28:48,090
From their own--

563
00:28:48,090 --> 00:28:50,040
Yeah, that's correct.

564
00:28:50,040 --> 00:28:52,540
But now there is
a second factor.

565
00:28:52,540 --> 00:28:55,320
The Jews must not be
allowed to believe what

566
00:28:55,320 --> 00:28:56,530
is going to happen to them.

567
00:28:56,530 --> 00:28:58,488
In other words, if you
have it out in the open,

568
00:28:58,488 --> 00:29:01,200
if you tell the Jews
what is going to happen,

569
00:29:01,200 --> 00:29:04,950
then what on earth
could you expect

570
00:29:04,950 --> 00:29:06,330
from the prospective victims?

571
00:29:06,330 --> 00:29:08,100
Are they going to
allow themselves

572
00:29:08,100 --> 00:29:09,780
to be led to slaughter?

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media.
It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

573
00:29:09,780 --> 00:29:12,390
And here we have a rather
interesting situation.

574
00:29:12,390 --> 00:29:16,620
We have a tendency on the part
of certain German personnel

575
00:29:16,620 --> 00:29:19,830
not only not to keep the
secret from other Germans,

576
00:29:19,830 --> 00:29:21,960
well, it goes without
saying that the subject

577
00:29:21,960 --> 00:29:24,000
of the destruction of
the Jews was being talked

578
00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:27,090
about in the foreign office,
in embassies and legations

579
00:29:27,090 --> 00:29:29,280
as far south as Rome, let's say.

580
00:29:29,280 --> 00:29:32,220
That it was talked about in the
open environment of a dining

581
00:29:32,220 --> 00:29:37,230
car on some railroad going
from Warsaw to Berlin,

582
00:29:37,230 --> 00:29:40,260
that it was talked about
in a variety of places

583
00:29:40,260 --> 00:29:43,440
where you would not expect such
conversations to take place.

584
00:29:43,440 --> 00:29:47,070

But even more so, it was
talked about by perpetrators

585
00:29:47,070 --> 00:29:49,110
to the victims themselves.

586
00:29:49,110 --> 00:29:51,630
You find it in the diary
of Adam Czerniakow.

587
00:29:51,630 --> 00:29:55,350
You find that he hears
strange information

588
00:29:55,350 --> 00:29:59,130
from the very people he's
dealing with, from Germans.

589
00:29:59,130 --> 00:30:02,340
He hears not the direct
word, not specifics,

590
00:30:02,340 --> 00:30:04,790
but he hears enough to worry.

591
00:30:04,790 --> 00:30:08,720
We have a strange report
that was received in Geneva

592
00:30:08,720 --> 00:30:10,640
from an unknown
source, but received

593
00:30:10,640 --> 00:30:14,000
during the war, where somebody
was a spectator to a killing

594
00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:16,250
operation somewhere
in the Ukraine,

595
00:30:16,250 --> 00:30:19,010
who was within
listening distance,

596

00:30:19,010 --> 00:30:21,710
and who says that
he actually heard

597
00:30:21,710 --> 00:30:27,230
a German officer, presumably an
SS officer, explain to the Jews

598
00:30:27,230 --> 00:30:29,330
just about to be
killed why it is

599
00:30:29,330 --> 00:30:32,600
that they had to pay with
their lives, with their lives,

600
00:30:32,600 --> 00:30:35,490
mind you, for what
Jewry had done.

601
00:30:35,490 --> 00:30:37,790
In other words, here he
is giving the victims

602
00:30:37,790 --> 00:30:39,560
an explanation.

603
00:30:39,560 --> 00:30:41,540
And then we have a
document like this, which

604
00:30:41,540 --> 00:30:43,400
is itself very interesting.

605
00:30:43,400 --> 00:30:46,790
It comes from Günther,
who was Eichmann's deputy.

606
00:30:46,790 --> 00:30:50,870
And it goes to the
various security police

607
00:30:50,870 --> 00:30:53,060
personnel in France,
Netherlands, and Belgium,

608
00:30:53,060 --> 00:30:55,940
as well as to Minks.

609
00:30:55,940 --> 00:30:59,360
April 29, 1943.

610
00:30:59,360 --> 00:31:01,490
That's not so early.

611
00:31:01,490 --> 00:31:05,900
"Immediate concern has
prompted Camp Auschwitz

612
00:31:05,900 --> 00:31:07,850
to renew a request
that Jews about

613
00:31:07,850 --> 00:31:11,870
to be evacuated receive
no disturbing revelations

614
00:31:11,870 --> 00:31:17,000
of any kind about the place, or
manner of the utilization which

615
00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:19,810
is in store for them.

616
00:31:19,810 --> 00:31:22,120
In particular, I
should ask you to take

617
00:31:22,120 --> 00:31:24,370
pains to instruct the
accompanying guards

618
00:31:24,370 --> 00:31:28,450
before every journey not to
instill thoughts of resistance

619
00:31:28,450 --> 00:31:32,590
in the Jews by voicing in
their presence suppositions

620

00:31:32,590 --> 00:31:35,650
about types of
quarters, et cetera.

621
00:31:35,650 --> 00:31:39,160
Auschwitz is most desirous that
in view of urgent construction

622
00:31:39,160 --> 00:31:41,470
programs the receipt
of the transports

623
00:31:41,470 --> 00:31:43,600
and their future distribution
may be carried out

624
00:31:43,600 --> 00:31:46,850
as smoothly as possible."

625
00:31:46,850 --> 00:31:49,450
Now you see another
purpose of this secrecy.

626
00:31:49,450 --> 00:31:52,270
The Jews are not to
receive intimation,

627
00:31:52,270 --> 00:31:54,650
most especially not--

628
00:31:54,650 --> 00:31:56,858
(film slating)

629
00:31:56,858 --> 00:31:58,310

630
00:31:58,310 --> 00:32:05,050
We see in this kind of
correspondence the insistence

631
00:32:05,050 --> 00:32:10,820
upon secrecy for the reason that
the smoothness of the operation

632
00:32:10,820 --> 00:32:13,730

is dependent upon
Jews not becoming

633
00:32:13,730 --> 00:32:17,420
anxious about the
mode of what is

634
00:32:17,420 --> 00:32:20,200
to happen to them upon arrival.

635
00:32:20,200 --> 00:32:24,460
They are to be kept quiet
for efficiency purposes,

636
00:32:24,460 --> 00:32:26,890
for the avoidance
of any resistance,

637
00:32:26,890 --> 00:32:30,940
for unexpected
events not to happen.

638
00:32:30,940 --> 00:32:33,190
Now, it's very curious
in a certain sense,

639
00:32:33,190 --> 00:32:35,710
because I think that
the Germans themselves

640
00:32:35,710 --> 00:32:38,920
had to assume that the
Jewish communities in places

641
00:32:38,920 --> 00:32:40,630
like France,
Belgium, and Holland

642
00:32:40,630 --> 00:32:42,490
would already have
had suspicions

643
00:32:42,490 --> 00:32:47,410
about any destination
unannounced of any death train

644
00:32:47,410 --> 00:32:49,510
that they might be boarding.

645
00:32:49,510 --> 00:32:53,980
Nevertheless, the Jews were
capable of talking themselves

646
00:32:53,980 --> 00:32:58,360
into a state of
quiescence, of hoping

647
00:32:58,360 --> 00:33:02,230
that the final destination
would be some Ukrainian farm,

648
00:33:02,230 --> 00:33:05,770
that they would have to perform
forced labor perhaps, but not

649
00:33:05,770 --> 00:33:06,940
be killed.

650
00:33:06,940 --> 00:33:09,100
And therefore it
was simply a matter

651
00:33:09,100 --> 00:33:14,720
of reinforcing that hope and not
the opposite, not the anxiety.

652
00:33:14,720 --> 00:33:17,980
So we see now secrecy as
having another significance.

653
00:33:17,980 --> 00:33:20,980
It's not an either or
proposition at all.

654
00:33:20,980 --> 00:33:25,750
It's a question of there being
enough secrecy so that people

655
00:33:25,750 --> 00:33:29,590
would be capable of reinforcing
those of their feelings

656
00:33:29,590 --> 00:33:33,070
or those of their
suppositions, which

657
00:33:33,070 --> 00:33:36,010
would be useful to the Germans.

658
00:33:36,010 --> 00:33:37,690
And that would be
the other reason.

659
00:33:37,690 --> 00:33:41,500
Now of course, beyond
that in general,

660
00:33:41,500 --> 00:33:46,180
the problem was not to
broadcast and not to allow

661
00:33:46,180 --> 00:33:50,890
the entire world to know while
the operation was going on

662
00:33:50,890 --> 00:33:52,630
that it was happening.

663
00:33:52,630 --> 00:33:55,120
Because again, we have to see
that all these trains were

664
00:33:55,120 --> 00:33:56,890
moving in a single direction.

665
00:33:56,890 --> 00:34:00,230
There, after all, were
just a few destinations.

666
00:34:00,230 --> 00:34:04,610
And at the very least, Auschwitz
and the other administrations

667
00:34:04,610 --> 00:34:08,179
of those camps had to think
about breakout attempts and air

668
00:34:08,179 --> 00:34:09,710
raids.

669
00:34:09,710 --> 00:34:13,850
Of course, those camps were
by definition bottlenecks.

670
00:34:13,850 --> 00:34:15,949
The destruction of
four or five of them

671
00:34:15,949 --> 00:34:19,380
would have ended the
destruction process right there.

672
00:34:19,380 --> 00:34:22,199
Thus it became somewhat
essential to keep

673
00:34:22,199 --> 00:34:25,980
the operation sufficiently
secret to leave enough doubt,

674
00:34:25,980 --> 00:34:28,389
if there was doubt, as
to what was going on,

675
00:34:28,389 --> 00:34:32,790
so that people would not make
a concerted effort to destroy

676
00:34:32,790 --> 00:34:35,190
the perpetration right there.

677
00:34:35,190 --> 00:34:39,080
Yes, but what is the
most striking fact,

678
00:34:39,080 --> 00:34:41,909
I always ask this
to myself, is it

679
00:34:41,909 --> 00:34:47,580
the amount of information which

was thrown up during this year?

680
00:34:47,580 --> 00:34:48,974
Or is it the amount of silence?

681
00:34:48,974 --> 00:34:53,070

682
00:34:53,070 --> 00:34:56,000
In what sense, silence?

683
00:34:56,000 --> 00:35:00,605
The very fact that there
was so much information.

684
00:35:00,605 --> 00:35:01,780
Mm-hmm.

685
00:35:01,780 --> 00:35:06,520
That the the silence, I mean
the fact that they didn't know,

686
00:35:06,520 --> 00:35:09,790
that the thing was not known,
and that many people say

687
00:35:09,790 --> 00:35:13,340
we didn't know anything, or
we knew very late and so on.

688
00:35:13,340 --> 00:35:15,880
And even when they knew,
when they got information,

689
00:35:15,880 --> 00:35:18,070
they didn't believe, as you say.

690
00:35:18,070 --> 00:35:22,030
It is what I call the silence.

691
00:35:22,030 --> 00:35:25,810
Again, when we say
what is information,

692

00:35:25,810 --> 00:35:27,850
we have to recognize
that information,

693
00:35:27,850 --> 00:35:31,390
even as the modern social
scientist views it,

694
00:35:31,390 --> 00:35:32,650
consists of bits.

695
00:35:32,650 --> 00:35:38,963
That is irreducible
segments of factual data,

696
00:35:38,963 --> 00:35:40,130
which would be called a bit.

697
00:35:40,130 --> 00:35:41,850
This is a bit of information.

698
00:35:41,850 --> 00:35:43,540
If you have one bit,
you have one bit.

699
00:35:43,540 --> 00:35:45,370
If you have two, you
have twice as much.

700
00:35:45,370 --> 00:35:47,380
You can connect two
bits of information

701
00:35:47,380 --> 00:35:49,390
and make something
more out of it

702
00:35:49,390 --> 00:35:51,370
than each is
individually even when

703
00:35:51,370 --> 00:35:54,480
they add one and the other.

704
00:35:54,480 --> 00:35:55,620

(film logistics)

705
00:35:55,620 --> 00:35:57,510
It was a.