

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:25,880

2

00:00:25,880 --> 00:00:31,307

Bernard Weinstein,  
December 16, 1988.

3

00:00:31,307 --> 00:00:40,320

I'm Leonard Linton, a veteran  
of the 82nd Airborne Division

4

00:00:40,320 --> 00:00:43,590

which has liberated the  
Wöbbelin concentration

5

00:00:43,590 --> 00:00:46,020

camp in Northern Germany  
at the end of World War

6

00:00:46,020 --> 00:00:52,490

II in May of 1945.

7

00:00:52,490 --> 00:00:59,660

I was fortunate to speak  
the four occupation

8

00:00:59,660 --> 00:01:05,379

languages of Germany  
because I happened

9

00:01:05,379 --> 00:01:10,720

to have been born of  
Russian-background parents

10

00:01:10,720 --> 00:01:16,420

in Japan and raised  
quadrilingually,

11

00:01:16,420 --> 00:01:20,610

so I speak four  
languages fluently,

12

00:01:20,610 --> 00:01:23,830

although with an accent  
in each one of them,

13

00:01:23,830 --> 00:01:28,450

but that has enabled  
me to have an extremely

14

00:01:28,450 --> 00:01:33,580

good insight into  
the events in Germany

15

00:01:33,580 --> 00:01:36,040

at the end of World War II.

16

00:01:36,040 --> 00:01:40,160

I was raised partly in Europe.

17

00:01:40,160 --> 00:01:43,390

I went to school in  
France and Germany.

18

00:01:43,390 --> 00:01:46,900

In Germany, in particular,  
I went to school in Berlin.

19

00:01:46,900 --> 00:01:49,820

So I not only speak German.

20

00:01:49,820 --> 00:01:56,020

But as any self-respecting young  
kid, I speak the Berlin slang

21

00:01:56,020 --> 00:02:03,640

and have used it on occasion  
with the German military

22

00:02:03,640 --> 00:02:09,229

to get very rapid obedience  
when it was necessary,

23

00:02:09,229 --> 00:02:15,040

particularly at the end of  
the war when the division came

24  
00:02:15,040 --> 00:02:19,670  
into the last small town that we  
took in Northern Germany called

25  
00:02:19,670 --> 00:02:27,940  
Ludwigslust, which is located  
in North Germany in the province

26  
00:02:27,940 --> 00:02:29,800  
of Mecklenburg.

27  
00:02:29,800 --> 00:02:34,540  
Later it was ceded  
to the Red Army.

28  
00:02:34,540 --> 00:02:39,820  
But the 82nd Airborne came in  
there, met with the Red Army,

29  
00:02:39,820 --> 00:02:47,300  
and, unbeknownst to us when  
we arrived there, there

30  
00:02:47,300 --> 00:02:53,360  
was a concentration camp on  
the outskirts of this town

31  
00:02:53,360 --> 00:02:57,440  
next to a small village  
called Wobbelin.

32  
00:02:57,440 --> 00:03:01,910  
This was not as large  
a concentration camp

33  
00:03:01,910 --> 00:03:08,210  
as the infamous camps of  
Dachau, Theresienstadt,

34  
00:03:08,210 --> 00:03:13,460

and many others that  
are well-known to have

35  
00:03:13,460 --> 00:03:23,540  
had very efficient mass-murder  
machines, gas chambers, gas

36  
00:03:23,540 --> 00:03:27,890  
ovens where the people,  
the bodies of the people

37  
00:03:27,890 --> 00:03:34,060  
who were murdered by gas,  
or shootings, or starvation

38  
00:03:34,060 --> 00:03:40,190  
were then cremated to  
obliterate the traces.

39  
00:03:40,190 --> 00:03:44,120  
In the Wöbbelin  
camp, it was not such

40  
00:03:44,120 --> 00:03:48,660  
an industrialized operation.

41  
00:03:48,660 --> 00:03:52,760  
The survivors were merely  
left to die of hunger.

42  
00:03:52,760 --> 00:03:54,490  
They weren't fed.

43  
00:03:54,490 --> 00:03:58,435  
They were worked and not fed.

44  
00:03:58,435 --> 00:04:00,760  
And so, naturally,  
it doesn't take

45  
00:04:00,760 --> 00:04:05,650  
too long before a  
person passes away,

46  
00:04:05,650 --> 00:04:09,340  
particularly if they're  
brutalized, if they

47  
00:04:09,340 --> 00:04:14,500  
live without heated buildings.

48  
00:04:14,500 --> 00:04:22,010  
And when we came there, we heard  
that there was a concentration

49  
00:04:22,010 --> 00:04:22,510  
camp.

50  
00:04:22,510 --> 00:04:25,190

51  
00:04:25,190 --> 00:04:29,120  
On the first or second  
day of hearing this,

52  
00:04:29,120 --> 00:04:35,150  
I drove into the  
camp in my Jeep.

53  
00:04:35,150 --> 00:04:41,180  
And as was expected, there  
were no German guards

54  
00:04:41,180 --> 00:04:45,830  
because the Germans,  
in general, had

55  
00:04:45,830 --> 00:04:51,410  
a tremendous propaganda against  
the American paratroopers.

56  
00:04:51,410 --> 00:04:56,180  
And they claimed  
in their propaganda

57

00:04:56,180 --> 00:05:02,170  
that we were volunteers  
from death row in Alcatraz

58  
00:05:02,170 --> 00:05:07,160  
and were serving in  
the US Airborne units

59  
00:05:07,160 --> 00:05:11,000  
to gain our freedom  
at the end of the war.

60  
00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:15,380  
And so they claimed that we  
were performing atrocities,

61  
00:05:15,380 --> 00:05:20,450  
and they terrorized their  
population and their military

62  
00:05:20,450 --> 00:05:26,360  
by stories about  
what we were doing.

63  
00:05:26,360 --> 00:05:28,730  
We used this, of course,  
to our advantage.

64  
00:05:28,730 --> 00:05:31,550  
Because whenever  
we would show up,

65  
00:05:31,550 --> 00:05:36,920  
we had our distinctive  
jump uniform.

66  
00:05:36,920 --> 00:05:41,930  
It usually created incredible  
panic and pandemonium

67  
00:05:41,930 --> 00:05:45,410  
in their ranks, especially  
among the civilians.

68

00:05:45,410 --> 00:05:48,800

69

00:05:48,800 --> 00:05:51,860

Just seeing an  
American paratrooper

70

00:05:51,860 --> 00:05:55,550

would make them shake  
and quiver to an extent

71

00:05:55,550 --> 00:05:58,510

that was a delight  
to us in those days,

72

00:05:58,510 --> 00:06:03,080

and we quickly utilized  
this to get them to do

73

00:06:03,080 --> 00:06:08,240

whatever we had to have done.

74

00:06:08,240 --> 00:06:16,970

At that time, I served in a unit  
in the 82nd Airborne called G5.

75

00:06:16,970 --> 00:06:18,140

That was a newly--

76

00:06:18,140 --> 00:06:24,540

relatively newly  
formed unit, which

77

00:06:24,540 --> 00:06:29,970

stood for Military Government.

78

00:06:29,970 --> 00:06:36,940

At the end of the Battle of the  
Bulge, those who spoke German

79

00:06:36,940 --> 00:06:40,720

were selected, and

a few of us were

80

00:06:40,720 --> 00:06:44,920  
sent to a Military  
Government school in France

81

00:06:44,920 --> 00:06:49,600  
because it was well-expected  
that the next engagement

82

00:06:49,600 --> 00:06:52,540  
of the 82nd Airborne  
was no longer going

83

00:06:52,540 --> 00:06:56,800  
to be the liberation of  
France, which was already

84

00:06:56,800 --> 00:06:58,780  
finished by that time.

85

00:06:58,780 --> 00:07:04,330  
We had just at the end of the  
Battle of the Bulge liberated

86

00:07:04,330 --> 00:07:07,160  
Belgium, for all  
intents and purposes,

87

00:07:07,160 --> 00:07:13,600  
and the next assault was  
going to be on Germany itself,

88

00:07:13,600 --> 00:07:17,890  
the so-called  
"1,000-year Reich."

89

00:07:17,890 --> 00:07:24,520  
And the Military Government  
school was marvelous.

90

00:07:24,520 --> 00:07:29,950  
Because in a two-week,

very intensive training,

91

00:07:29,950 --> 00:07:34,570

those of us who went  
through this Army school

92

00:07:34,570 --> 00:07:44,110

were able, literally, to run  
an occupied, subdued nation.

93

00:07:44,110 --> 00:07:49,160

We were expecting, of  
course, resistance.

94

00:07:49,160 --> 00:07:51,730

Our intelligence  
reports said that there

95

00:07:51,730 --> 00:07:55,120

were going to be Werwolfs,  
a German resistance

96

00:07:55,120 --> 00:08:02,230

group that was trained  
to work behind our lines.

97

00:08:02,230 --> 00:08:08,504

And we were ready for the  
worst when we got into Germany.

98

00:08:08,504 --> 00:08:11,050

But by a quirk of  
history, which I

99

00:08:11,050 --> 00:08:16,040

think is not particularly  
relevant right now,

100

00:08:16,040 --> 00:08:21,590

the British and  
Canadian armies stepped

101

00:08:21,590 --> 00:08:25,300

on the left bank  
of the Elbe River

102  
00:08:25,300 --> 00:08:33,090  
and were not crossing for  
several days in a row.

103  
00:08:33,090 --> 00:08:41,659  
This resulted in General  
Eisenhower ordering

104  
00:08:41,659 --> 00:08:45,260  
the 82nd Airborne  
to cross the Elbe

105  
00:08:45,260 --> 00:08:49,370  
and to proceed as far  
forward towards Berlin

106  
00:08:49,370 --> 00:08:51,320  
as was physically possible.

107  
00:08:51,320 --> 00:08:54,050

108  
00:08:54,050 --> 00:09:00,480  
I believe that General  
Gavin suggested this

109  
00:09:00,480 --> 00:09:06,210  
to General Eisenhower and  
said something to the effect

110  
00:09:06,210 --> 00:09:11,340  
that the 82nd can cross the Elbe  
where the British and Canadians

111  
00:09:11,340 --> 00:09:17,465  
were not crossing it and  
could, once across, forge on

112  
00:09:17,465 --> 00:09:17,965  
to Berlin.

113  
00:09:17,965 --> 00:09:20,770

114  
00:09:20,770 --> 00:09:23,350  
From there, of course,  
stems the title of one

115  
00:09:23,350 --> 00:09:31,450  
of General Gavin's books,  
which was called On To Berlin.

116  
00:09:31,450 --> 00:09:35,281  
It included this  
particular episode.

117  
00:09:35,281 --> 00:09:44,450  
So in the Military Government  
function of the 82nd

118  
00:09:44,450 --> 00:09:48,470  
Airborne was  
primarily concentrated

119  
00:09:48,470 --> 00:09:53,930  
on governing the German  
area that we took,

120  
00:09:53,930 --> 00:09:57,490  
that the 82nd Airborne took.

121  
00:09:57,490 --> 00:10:02,570  
So G5 was a headquarters  
group consisting

122  
00:10:02,570 --> 00:10:06,485  
of maybe five or six men,  
officers and men, two officers

123  
00:10:06,485 --> 00:10:09,610  
and three or four men.

124

00:10:09,610 --> 00:10:11,870  
And each regiment, each  
of the three or four

125  
00:10:11,870 --> 00:10:14,960  
regiments that the  
82nd Airborne had,

126  
00:10:14,960 --> 00:10:20,120  
had an S5, which was the  
regimental-level Military

127  
00:10:20,120 --> 00:10:21,770  
Government unit.

128  
00:10:21,770 --> 00:10:25,670  
We all had been trained for  
that in this French school

129  
00:10:25,670 --> 00:10:27,200  
I mentioned.

130  
00:10:27,200 --> 00:10:31,280  
So by the time we  
came to Ludwigslust--

131  
00:10:31,280 --> 00:10:36,940

132  
00:10:36,940 --> 00:10:43,180  
I believe that I was the first  
trooper of the 82nd Airborne

133  
00:10:43,180 --> 00:10:45,540  
to come into Ludwigslust.

134  
00:10:45,540 --> 00:10:48,650  
In fact, I rushed  
into the town hall

135  
00:10:48,650 --> 00:10:53,240  
while a meeting of the mayor  
with all his administrators

136  
00:10:53,240 --> 00:10:54,850  
was in progress.

137  
00:10:54,850 --> 00:11:00,430  
And I barged in sort  
of rough and ready,

138  
00:11:00,430 --> 00:11:03,830  
threw my carbine on the  
table during the meeting,

139  
00:11:03,830 --> 00:11:06,310  
and asked them, what was  
this meeting all about?

140  
00:11:06,310 --> 00:11:10,840

141  
00:11:10,840 --> 00:11:13,880  
It took them a few minutes  
to regain composure

142  
00:11:13,880 --> 00:11:18,840  
from seeing this  
horrible figure appear.

143  
00:11:18,840 --> 00:11:20,060  
Were you by yourself?

144  
00:11:20,060 --> 00:11:22,870  
I was by myself.

145  
00:11:22,870 --> 00:11:31,900  
I was tired, dusty, maybe two  
days of Jeep-riding forward

146  
00:11:31,900 --> 00:11:32,710  
every--

147  
00:11:32,710 --> 00:11:36,840  
rushing as far and as

quickly as we could.

148  
00:11:36,840 --> 00:11:43,860  
And I was certainly not in  
a very tender frame of mind

149  
00:11:43,860 --> 00:11:46,720  
near this end of the war.

150  
00:11:46,720 --> 00:11:50,100  
So they told me  
that the meeting was

151  
00:11:50,100 --> 00:11:55,080  
as to what to do in case  
the Americans arrive.

152  
00:11:55,080 --> 00:11:56,730  
So I told them  
the meeting is now

153  
00:11:56,730 --> 00:12:00,930  
ended because it's no longer  
a question of whether or not

154  
00:12:00,930 --> 00:12:01,940  
we will arrive.

155  
00:12:01,940 --> 00:12:04,650  
We are here, and  
I'm taking over.

156  
00:12:04,650 --> 00:12:08,850  
And as a representative of  
the 82nd Airborne Military

157  
00:12:08,850 --> 00:12:14,130  
Government, they are now  
under my direct command

158  
00:12:14,130 --> 00:12:18,660  
to do as I order them.

159

00:12:18,660 --> 00:12:23,910

The procedure was that  
we had a Proclamation

160

00:12:23,910 --> 00:12:31,440

Number 1, which was a little  
leaflet, approximately

161

00:12:31,440 --> 00:12:34,470

letter size, maybe  
slightly larger than letter

162

00:12:34,470 --> 00:12:38,610

size, of which I had several  
additions or several copies

163

00:12:38,610 --> 00:12:40,740

in my pocket, folded.

164

00:12:40,740 --> 00:12:44,420

And we had in my Jeep  
several rolls on a--

165

00:12:44,420 --> 00:12:48,210

of a much larger  
identical proclamation

166

00:12:48,210 --> 00:12:51,480

which I handed to them to  
paste on all the bulletin

167

00:12:51,480 --> 00:12:53,460

boards around town.

168

00:12:53,460 --> 00:12:57,700

And it said something to  
the effect that translated

169

00:12:57,700 --> 00:13:00,260

into English-- it was  
in German and English--

170

00:13:00,260 --> 00:13:03,060

"I, General Dwight

D. Eisenhower,

171

00:13:03,060 --> 00:13:06,990

Supreme Commander of the  
Allied Expeditionary Forces"--

172

00:13:06,990 --> 00:13:09,690

I still remember  
the text by heart.

173

00:13:09,690 --> 00:13:14,190

And it went on that they  
are now conquered and are

174

00:13:14,190 --> 00:13:20,230

to obey all United States  
Army Government and occupation

175

00:13:20,230 --> 00:13:24,390

regulations, which we  
started spewing forth

176

00:13:24,390 --> 00:13:30,240

in tremendous numbers  
and volume the moment I

177

00:13:30,240 --> 00:13:31,350

came into that room.

178

00:13:31,350 --> 00:13:34,510

179

00:13:34,510 --> 00:13:39,030

I stood there maybe 20 minutes,  
certainly not even half

180

00:13:39,030 --> 00:13:40,140

an hour.

181

00:13:40,140 --> 00:13:46,620

I kept going because our

orders were "go on to Berlin."

182

00:13:46,620 --> 00:13:49,600

And so I kept going in my Jeep.

183

00:13:49,600 --> 00:13:54,950

And a few kilometers outside  
of Ludwigslust towards the--

184

00:13:54,950 --> 00:13:59,910

on the road towards another  
little town called Grabau,

185

00:13:59,910 --> 00:14:01,410

we met the Red Army.

186

00:14:01,410 --> 00:14:05,940

And for us, the 82nd  
Airborne, the war was over.

187

00:14:05,940 --> 00:14:10,250

I believe it was probably May 2.

188

00:14:10,250 --> 00:14:13,200

189

00:14:13,200 --> 00:14:17,750

We couldn't go on, of course,  
beyond the Red Army lines

190

00:14:17,750 --> 00:14:20,830

into Berlin.

191

00:14:20,830 --> 00:14:28,350

So the border between the  
Red Army and the US Army

192

00:14:28,350 --> 00:14:33,320

was a demarcation line with  
a 1-kilometer no-man's land

193

00:14:33,320 --> 00:14:35,160

cleared of all people.

194  
00:14:35,160 --> 00:14:37,470  
I was doing some  
of the clearing.

195  
00:14:37,470 --> 00:14:41,040  
The other colleagues  
of mine in G5 and S5

196  
00:14:41,040 --> 00:14:46,020  
were clearing out the Germans  
from this no-man's land.

197  
00:14:46,020 --> 00:14:51,840  
That's when we learned about  
the existence of the Wöbbelin

198  
00:14:51,840 --> 00:14:53,850  
concentration camp.

199  
00:14:53,850 --> 00:14:59,130  
We saw some survivors in  
their striped uniforms--

200  
00:14:59,130 --> 00:15:00,460  
striped.

201  
00:15:00,460 --> 00:15:03,930  
The stripes were supposed  
to be black and white.

202  
00:15:03,930 --> 00:15:08,850  
But actually, they were  
dark gray and light gray

203  
00:15:08,850 --> 00:15:12,410  
because the dark, the  
black half has faded

204  
00:15:12,410 --> 00:15:15,110  
into a sort of a dirty gray.

205

00:15:15,110 --> 00:15:18,130

And the white-- of course,  
they had no soap to wash

206

00:15:18,130 --> 00:15:19,590

their clothing--

207

00:15:19,590 --> 00:15:23,465

became a muddied,  
sort of dirty gray.

208

00:15:23,465 --> 00:15:26,035

209

00:15:26,035 --> 00:15:29,590

And as soon as I  
saw some of them,

210

00:15:29,590 --> 00:15:35,080

I thought at first that  
the prison gate was opened

211

00:15:35,080 --> 00:15:39,370

and some criminals came  
out because I didn't really

212

00:15:39,370 --> 00:15:43,900

expect anything like  
a concentration camp.

213

00:15:43,900 --> 00:15:46,980

We had no information  
whatsoever about this camp.

214

00:15:46,980 --> 00:15:49,660

215

00:15:49,660 --> 00:15:53,150

But quickly, I talked  
to some of them

216

00:15:53,150 --> 00:15:57,970

in various languages,  
German or Russian.

217  
00:15:57,970 --> 00:16:00,190  
Many of them were Poles.

218  
00:16:00,190 --> 00:16:03,610  
I don't speak Polish, but  
somebody who speaks Russian

219  
00:16:03,610 --> 00:16:06,220  
can comprehend Polish  
to some extent.

220  
00:16:06,220 --> 00:16:08,890

221  
00:16:08,890 --> 00:16:11,710  
I learned that there  
was a concentration camp

222  
00:16:11,710 --> 00:16:16,750  
and that they were survivors.

223  
00:16:16,750 --> 00:16:19,180  
As soon as it was  
possible, which I believe

224  
00:16:19,180 --> 00:16:23,461  
was the next day, I drove there.

225  
00:16:23,461 --> 00:16:30,710  
And when I arrived, an  
incredible sight greeted me.

226  
00:16:30,710 --> 00:16:33,720

227  
00:16:33,720 --> 00:16:37,080  
You can imagine  
that a paratrooper

228

00:16:37,080 --> 00:16:40,560  
in the 82nd Airborne  
Division who

229  
00:16:40,560 --> 00:16:45,540  
has gone through  
bits of the Bulge

230  
00:16:45,540 --> 00:16:50,240  
is a fairly hardened individual.

231  
00:16:50,240 --> 00:16:58,240  
I have seen lots of corpses  
in all kinds of condition,

232  
00:16:58,240 --> 00:17:03,890  
from simply people who had  
no wounds, civilians as well

233  
00:17:03,890 --> 00:17:11,450  
as military, to people,  
civilian and military, run over

234  
00:17:11,450 --> 00:17:13,730  
by tank treads.

235  
00:17:13,730 --> 00:17:18,770  
So you can imagine that  
the corpses by that time

236  
00:17:18,770 --> 00:17:31,770  
were to me so common a site that  
it didn't matter much at all.

237  
00:17:31,770 --> 00:17:35,830  
Most of us were  
hardened like that.

238  
00:17:35,830 --> 00:17:44,720  
However, when I came into  
this concentration camp,

239  
00:17:44,720 --> 00:17:49,190

I must say that to this day--  
and this was many years ago--

240  
00:17:49,190 --> 00:17:52,585

241  
00:17:52,585 --> 00:18:01,680  
an incredible and  
really undescrivable

242  
00:18:01,680 --> 00:18:09,830  
disgust, a feeling or a  
mixture of horror, repulsion.

243  
00:18:09,830 --> 00:18:13,910

244  
00:18:13,910 --> 00:18:16,920  
It just cannot be described.

245  
00:18:16,920 --> 00:18:21,000  
Or at least, I am  
not good enough

246  
00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:29,670  
in utilizing any language  
to describe this adequately.

247  
00:18:29,670 --> 00:18:35,720  
However, there was this  
barbed-wire enclosure

248  
00:18:35,720 --> 00:18:40,110  
with an open gate in front.

249  
00:18:40,110 --> 00:18:47,310  
So I left my Jeep in front of  
the gate, stopped the engine,

250  
00:18:47,310 --> 00:18:49,590  
and walked in.

251

00:18:49,590 --> 00:18:53,130  
There were several people,  
maybe 20 or 30 people,

252  
00:18:53,130 --> 00:18:58,350  
milling around outside,  
obvious survivors

253  
00:18:58,350 --> 00:19:03,960  
of this camp that were in their  
tattered, striped uniforms.

254  
00:19:03,960 --> 00:19:07,005  
Some of them didn't even  
have these uniforms.

255  
00:19:07,005 --> 00:19:10,360

256  
00:19:10,360 --> 00:19:13,960  
Some of them were in fair  
shape, but most of them

257  
00:19:13,960 --> 00:19:20,720  
were emaciated and  
haggard looking,

258  
00:19:20,720 --> 00:19:23,290  
almost ambulatory corpses.

259  
00:19:23,290 --> 00:19:25,910

260  
00:19:25,910 --> 00:19:28,220  
I talked with some of  
them just before coming--

261  
00:19:28,220 --> 00:19:32,450  
going in and asked them,  
what were they doing there?

262  
00:19:32,450 --> 00:19:37,550  
I couldn't understand why

they were still milling around

263

00:19:37,550 --> 00:19:42,380  
in front of this horrible  
camp where, of course,

264

00:19:42,380 --> 00:19:48,550  
the German guards had all  
evaporated at our approach.

265

00:19:48,550 --> 00:19:55,260  
And they simply said, they  
didn't know where to go.

266

00:19:55,260 --> 00:20:01,940  
That was the only place where  
they felt more or less at home,

267

00:20:01,940 --> 00:20:03,290  
if one can call it.

268

00:20:03,290 --> 00:20:05,840  
It's an aberration, of  
course, to say that.

269

00:20:05,840 --> 00:20:09,420  
They were not really at home,  
but they knew nothing else.

270

00:20:09,420 --> 00:20:12,520  
They were afraid of  
the outside world.

271

00:20:12,520 --> 00:20:14,580  
They were afraid of the Germans.

272

00:20:14,580 --> 00:20:17,480  
They were afraid of everybody.

273

00:20:17,480 --> 00:20:19,440  
They looked at me,  
and they recognized

274

00:20:19,440 --> 00:20:21,225  
that I was an American.

275

00:20:21,225 --> 00:20:26,080  
And there were several of our  
troopers who were preceded me

276

00:20:26,080 --> 00:20:27,980  
and were there before.

277

00:20:27,980 --> 00:20:31,570  
So they realized that  
they had been liberated.

278

00:20:31,570 --> 00:20:35,520  
But it had not yet  
sunk into their heads

279

00:20:35,520 --> 00:20:39,480  
that they were free men.

280

00:20:39,480 --> 00:20:42,000  
There were a few  
women-- free people.

281

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:46,480  
Most of them were men, but there  
were a few women there also.

282

00:20:46,480 --> 00:20:50,430  
Could you designate what the  
ages were, the general age?

283

00:20:50,430 --> 00:20:53,000  
Were they young,  
middle-aged, elderly?

284

00:20:53,000 --> 00:20:55,170  
The ages ranged--

285

00:20:55,170 --> 00:21:00,490  
I would say the youngest

were about 10, maybe 12,

286  
00:21:00,490 --> 00:21:03,090  
13 years old--

287  
00:21:03,090 --> 00:21:06,870  
children, which  
they didn't really

288  
00:21:06,870 --> 00:21:10,350  
look like children  
because children

289  
00:21:10,350 --> 00:21:13,285  
who came out of a  
concentration camp

290  
00:21:13,285 --> 00:21:14,880  
no longer look like children.

291  
00:21:14,880 --> 00:21:18,170

292  
00:21:18,170 --> 00:21:20,400  
They just looked  
like children to me--

293  
00:21:20,400 --> 00:21:23,790  
or I knew there were children  
because of their size.

294  
00:21:23,790 --> 00:21:27,694  
They were shorter, smaller.

295  
00:21:27,694 --> 00:21:31,280  
Their skulls, their  
heads were smaller.

296  
00:21:31,280 --> 00:21:34,170  
And I knew they were  
children, although they looked

297

00:21:34,170 --> 00:21:36,490  
like the others, nearly dead.

298  
00:21:36,490 --> 00:21:39,836

299  
00:21:39,836 --> 00:21:44,550  
These were the youngest  
that I remember seeing.

300  
00:21:44,550 --> 00:21:50,310  
At the other end  
of the scale, it's

301  
00:21:50,310 --> 00:21:56,730  
very hard to say what the  
age of the oldest were.

302  
00:21:56,730 --> 00:21:59,100  
Because in the  
physical condition

303  
00:21:59,100 --> 00:22:04,740  
in which these people were,  
you could not give an age.

304  
00:22:04,740 --> 00:22:07,430

305  
00:22:07,430 --> 00:22:13,460  
I would guess that perhaps I saw  
some people, a few, very few,

306  
00:22:13,460 --> 00:22:18,195  
who might have been  
around 40, maybe 42, 43.

307  
00:22:18,195 --> 00:22:20,870

308  
00:22:20,870 --> 00:22:32,420  
But the general percent  
of people in the majority

309

00:22:32,420 --> 00:22:37,190  
percentage, maybe, I  
would say, 40% to 50%

310

00:22:37,190 --> 00:22:46,400  
I would venture to guess,  
were between maybe 19 or so

311

00:22:46,400 --> 00:22:52,740  
to about 30, maybe  
slightly under 30.

312

00:22:52,740 --> 00:22:56,010  
Now, as I talked  
with some of them--

313

00:22:56,010 --> 00:22:59,460  
even before coming  
into the camp,

314

00:22:59,460 --> 00:23:02,060  
I was curious who they were.

315

00:23:02,060 --> 00:23:05,040  
What were they in for?

316

00:23:05,040 --> 00:23:13,760  
So I remember they said,  
well, I'm from Lithuania.

317

00:23:13,760 --> 00:23:14,900  
I'm from Poland.

318

00:23:14,900 --> 00:23:17,510  
I'm from Czechoslovakia.

319

00:23:17,510 --> 00:23:20,030  
I'm from East Prussia.

320

00:23:20,030 --> 00:23:21,620  
I'm from Belgium.

321  
00:23:21,620 --> 00:23:23,420  
I'm from France.

322  
00:23:23,420 --> 00:23:25,340  
I'm from Luxembourg.

323  
00:23:25,340 --> 00:23:31,160  
They were from all  
over, all over Europe.

324  
00:23:31,160 --> 00:23:36,560  
In fact, in Wobbelin, unlike  
some of the other camps,

325  
00:23:36,560 --> 00:23:44,000  
the percentage of Jews to  
non-Jews was not the same.

326  
00:23:44,000 --> 00:23:48,050  
I would say that Jews were  
probably a minority there.

327  
00:23:48,050 --> 00:23:51,010  
The majority were non-Jews.

328  
00:23:51,010 --> 00:23:52,860  
And they were in there--

329  
00:23:52,860 --> 00:23:56,060  
of course, the Jews were  
there because there were Jews.

330  
00:23:56,060 --> 00:24:01,100  
They were born  
ethnically Jewish,

331  
00:24:01,100 --> 00:24:04,100  
and so that was  
in Germany a crime

332  
00:24:04,100 --> 00:24:09,770

for which the punishment was  
death in an extermination camp.

333  
00:24:09,770 --> 00:24:15,870  
But the others that I knew  
very well at that time,

334  
00:24:15,870 --> 00:24:20,420  
so I was asking the non-Jews,  
what were they in there for?

335  
00:24:20,420 --> 00:24:27,350  
So one of them said, I  
was denounced by somebody.

336  
00:24:27,350 --> 00:24:30,250  
I says, denounced for what?

337  
00:24:30,250 --> 00:24:32,330  
He sort of shrugged  
his shoulders.

338  
00:24:32,330 --> 00:24:33,730  
He doesn't know for what.

339  
00:24:33,730 --> 00:24:35,545  
He was just denounced.

340  
00:24:35,545 --> 00:24:40,300  
And of course, in Germany,  
if somebody in Eastern Europe

341  
00:24:40,300 --> 00:24:43,550  
occupied by the  
Nazi war machine,

342  
00:24:43,550 --> 00:24:46,110  
if somebody denounces  
somebody, it's

343  
00:24:46,110 --> 00:24:48,250  
enough to wound up  
in a concentration

344  
00:24:48,250 --> 00:24:50,290  
camp in those days.

345  
00:24:50,290 --> 00:24:54,010  
And one I met I  
remember very well.

346  
00:24:54,010 --> 00:25:04,270  
He was a doctor from Prague,  
a rather well-educated man,

347  
00:25:04,270 --> 00:25:07,390  
with whom I had a little  
difficulty conversing.

348  
00:25:07,390 --> 00:25:11,290  
So we-- he spoke  
some broken German.

349  
00:25:11,290 --> 00:25:15,760  
And I asked him, what  
was he there for?

350  
00:25:15,760 --> 00:25:18,010  
So he said, well,  
he was denounced

351  
00:25:18,010 --> 00:25:21,850  
because he helped a Jew.

352  
00:25:21,850 --> 00:25:28,240  
He treated a Jewish  
patient, and that was why

353  
00:25:28,240 --> 00:25:32,590  
he was thrown into this camp.

354  
00:25:32,590 --> 00:25:36,310  
The others were  
resistance members.

355

00:25:36,310 --> 00:25:38,830  
That was more or  
less understandable

356  
00:25:38,830 --> 00:25:43,390  
that the Germans would capture  
those who were actively

357  
00:25:43,390 --> 00:25:46,450  
resisting them.

358  
00:25:46,450 --> 00:25:49,420  
But the kind of treatment  
they were giving them,

359  
00:25:49,420 --> 00:25:55,480  
that was really quite inhumane  
to put it very, very mildly.

360  
00:25:55,480 --> 00:25:58,210

361  
00:25:58,210 --> 00:26:06,090  
So these people were  
there, basically,

362  
00:26:06,090 --> 00:26:10,470  
very obviously innocent  
people who were just

363  
00:26:10,470 --> 00:26:17,960  
swept in by the German security  
and Nazi administration

364  
00:26:17,960 --> 00:26:20,130  
of occupied territories.

365  
00:26:20,130 --> 00:26:24,720  
There were some Germans in  
there also for whatever crimes

366  
00:26:24,720 --> 00:26:26,310  
they committed,

which must have been

367

00:26:26,310 --> 00:26:33,060  
some doubting of their victory  
in the latter part of the war,

368

00:26:33,060 --> 00:26:38,760  
of almost things that here  
in the United States one

369

00:26:38,760 --> 00:26:42,730  
couldn't even consider  
these having been crimes.

370

00:26:42,730 --> 00:26:45,510  
But in Germany,  
they were and enough

371

00:26:45,510 --> 00:26:50,590  
to be put into a camp like that.

372

00:26:50,590 --> 00:26:54,240  
I also remember that among this  
very first group, before even

373

00:26:54,240 --> 00:26:58,710  
getting into the camp  
itself, I asked them,

374

00:26:58,710 --> 00:26:59,810  
where are they from?

375

00:26:59,810 --> 00:27:02,490  
What kind of work  
were they doing?

376

00:27:02,490 --> 00:27:07,445  
And I noticed that  
practically all--

377

00:27:07,445 --> 00:27:10,920

378

00:27:10,920 --> 00:27:17,080

there were maybe five or six  
at that particular moment that

379

00:27:17,080 --> 00:27:21,570

looked old to me, in  
other words, nearly

380

00:27:21,570 --> 00:27:27,960

what may have appeared to me  
at that time to be around 40,

381

00:27:27,960 --> 00:27:30,290

and I do remember.

382

00:27:30,290 --> 00:27:33,840

But at that time, I  
myself was around 23.

383

00:27:33,840 --> 00:27:38,580

So somebody who looks  
40 is a very old person

384

00:27:38,580 --> 00:27:43,650

to a young, 23-year-old trooper.

385

00:27:43,650 --> 00:27:47,780

So I asked them, what were--

386

00:27:47,780 --> 00:27:49,650

what kind of work did they do?

387

00:27:49,650 --> 00:27:52,910

What was their  
profession, if anything?

388

00:27:52,910 --> 00:28:01,440

So all of them were farmers,  
practically all of them

389

00:28:01,440 --> 00:28:05,310

from the Soviet Union,

some from the Ukraine

390

00:28:05,310 --> 00:28:08,990  
and from different areas.

391

00:28:08,990 --> 00:28:17,960  
And the younger ones  
were mostly Europeans,

392

00:28:17,960 --> 00:28:23,990  
sort of, I would say, urban  
people, maybe not very long

393

00:28:23,990 --> 00:28:31,900  
in the concentration camp,  
whereas these Soviet citizen

394

00:28:31,900 --> 00:28:36,160  
have already, by and  
large, been several years

395

00:28:36,160 --> 00:28:39,886  
in a concentration camp.

396

00:28:39,886 --> 00:28:42,820  
And when I was talking  
to the doctor I mentioned

397

00:28:42,820 --> 00:28:46,480  
to you before, I  
asked him, how can it

398

00:28:46,480 --> 00:28:53,110  
be that these people here,  
this one and that one--

399

00:28:53,110 --> 00:28:55,940  
I pointed to them--

400

00:28:55,940 --> 00:28:59,510  
have been in the concentration  
camp for over a year

401

00:28:59,510 --> 00:29:02,990  
and are still alive?

402

00:29:02,990 --> 00:29:05,095  
So he sort of shrugged  
his shoulders.

403

00:29:05,095 --> 00:29:09,200  
And he said, yes,  
you see, these people

404

00:29:09,200 --> 00:29:14,240  
had a very, very hard life.

405

00:29:14,240 --> 00:29:19,930  
And they can take  
it, whereas those

406

00:29:19,930 --> 00:29:23,650  
who were urban people  
who were captured

407

00:29:23,650 --> 00:29:30,130  
from more relatively  
easier lives,

408

00:29:30,130 --> 00:29:31,750  
they're not hardened enough.

409

00:29:31,750 --> 00:29:35,200  
And they can survive only  
a matter of a few months

410

00:29:35,200 --> 00:29:38,220  
before dying like flies.

411

00:29:38,220 --> 00:29:45,820  
And that created a certain  
peculiarity of selection

412

00:29:45,820 --> 00:29:50,710  
that I used to read in

college about the survival

413  
00:29:50,710 --> 00:29:53,560  
of the species,  
thinking, in those days,

414  
00:29:53,560 --> 00:29:58,420  
that it was, you know, birds  
or gazelles in Africa where

415  
00:29:58,420 --> 00:29:59,740  
the hardier ones survived.

416  
00:29:59,740 --> 00:30:05,650  
And here I saw it was  
the human species.

417  
00:30:05,650 --> 00:30:09,950  
Well, I walked into the camp.

418  
00:30:09,950 --> 00:30:12,830  
I had my camera at the time.

419  
00:30:12,830 --> 00:30:15,050  
But in the beginning,  
I couldn't really

420  
00:30:15,050 --> 00:30:18,800  
think even of taking pictures  
because what I saw there

421  
00:30:18,800 --> 00:30:22,380  
was horror beyond description.

422  
00:30:22,380 --> 00:30:26,580

423  
00:30:26,580 --> 00:30:32,690  
There were several buildings,  
one-story, barrack-like

424  
00:30:32,690 --> 00:30:35,780

buildings.

425

00:30:35,780 --> 00:30:40,670

Most of them had the windows  
were without glazing,

426

00:30:40,670 --> 00:30:45,815

so it was just a open window,  
like a window openings.

427

00:30:45,815 --> 00:30:49,700

And the doors had no real  
doors that I can remember.

428

00:30:49,700 --> 00:30:55,190

Some of the buildings had doors,  
but most of them had no doors.

429

00:30:55,190 --> 00:30:58,170

So I walked into the first one.

430

00:30:58,170 --> 00:31:06,270

And it was filled with bunks.

431

00:31:06,270 --> 00:31:12,000

I believe there were three or  
four tiers of wooden bunks.

432

00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:14,400

They were fairly narrow.

433

00:31:14,400 --> 00:31:21,600

The bunks were perhaps a foot  
and a half, maybe 2-feet wide

434

00:31:21,600 --> 00:31:27,795

and the length of a normal,  
average human being.

435

00:31:27,795 --> 00:31:32,840

And there was straw  
on the wooden--

436

00:31:32,840 --> 00:31:35,160

there were no mattresses  
or anything like that.

437

00:31:35,160 --> 00:31:41,060

It was just wooden bunks,  
rough wood with straw.

438

00:31:41,060 --> 00:31:44,730

And amazingly enough,  
there were people

439

00:31:44,730 --> 00:31:53,070

still alive in these bunks who  
were looking at me coming in,

440

00:31:53,070 --> 00:31:55,365

without speaking,  
without uttering a sound.

441

00:31:55,365 --> 00:32:00,790

442

00:32:00,790 --> 00:32:04,380

And then I'd go to  
the next barrack,

443

00:32:04,380 --> 00:32:07,110

and I'd see the same sight.

444

00:32:07,110 --> 00:32:10,040

Not that the bunks  
were filled with them.

445

00:32:10,040 --> 00:32:13,080

There may have 10%  
or so of the bunks

446

00:32:13,080 --> 00:32:16,630

were occupied or  
had people in them.

447

00:32:16,630 --> 00:32:18,060  
Not all of them were alive.

448  
00:32:18,060 --> 00:32:24,330  
Some were obviously dead, must  
have died on the short time

449  
00:32:24,330 --> 00:32:28,140  
before my arrival there.

450  
00:32:28,140 --> 00:32:33,300  
Then I saw in front  
of another building,

451  
00:32:33,300 --> 00:32:40,320  
against the building,  
a pile of corpses,

452  
00:32:40,320 --> 00:32:46,770  
not very unlike firewood  
piled against a building

453  
00:32:46,770 --> 00:32:50,160  
that you might see in  
some rural farmhouse,

454  
00:32:50,160 --> 00:32:54,660  
in front of a rural farmhouse  
over before the winter starts.

455  
00:32:54,660 --> 00:32:57,600  
That's more or less  
how they were stacked,

456  
00:32:57,600 --> 00:32:58,980  
perhaps not as neatly though.

457  
00:32:58,980 --> 00:33:04,360  
They were just sort of piled  
one on top of the other,

458  
00:33:04,360 --> 00:33:13,760  
faces upside down, and

grotesque configurations,

459

00:33:13,760 --> 00:33:21,030

mouths open, eyes

open, beady of course.

460

00:33:21,030 --> 00:33:23,300

Then, here and

there, I would see

461

00:33:23,300 --> 00:33:29,840

a corpse laying on the

areas between the barracks.

462

00:33:29,840 --> 00:33:33,350

The barracks were, of course,

being designed by Germans,

463

00:33:33,350 --> 00:33:36,010

they were all very

neatly aligned.

464

00:33:36,010 --> 00:33:42,670

And they had a certain order

in this prevailing there.

465

00:33:42,670 --> 00:33:48,040

And one barrack set

somewhat aside was--

466

00:33:48,040 --> 00:33:50,000

I found out was the infirmary.

467

00:33:50,000 --> 00:33:53,340

468

00:33:53,340 --> 00:33:58,910

As I was walking through there,

one young fellow, a surviving

469

00:33:58,910 --> 00:34:04,120

inmate, accompanied me,

and I was talking with him.

470

00:34:04,120 --> 00:34:09,770

I remember he was Lithuanian,  
grabbed in Lithuania,

471

00:34:09,770 --> 00:34:12,745

and arrived through  
several camps

472

00:34:12,745 --> 00:34:15,370

and until he got to this one.

473

00:34:15,370 --> 00:34:19,770

And I was talking  
in German with him.

474

00:34:19,770 --> 00:34:25,389

His German was rather poor, but  
we could certainly understand.

475

00:34:25,389 --> 00:34:32,170

And I would ask him, why  
are these people piled here?

476

00:34:32,170 --> 00:34:35,699

So he said, well, we were just--

477

00:34:35,699 --> 00:34:40,801

we were told to pile, to put up  
there, and we put them there--

478

00:34:40,801 --> 00:34:42,000

by the Germans.

479

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:46,880

So I'd say, well, what  
were they doing with them?

480

00:34:46,880 --> 00:34:53,300

He said, oh, well,  
they made us dig a pit.

481

00:34:53,300 --> 00:34:56,440  
And after a few  
days, well, they'd

482  
00:34:56,440 --> 00:34:58,172  
throw the corpses into that pit.

483  
00:34:58,172 --> 00:35:01,800  
And they'd put a little bit  
of earth on top of them,

484  
00:35:01,800 --> 00:35:05,850  
layer by layer, a layer  
of corpses, a layer of--

485  
00:35:05,850 --> 00:35:09,270  
a thin layer of earth until  
the pit would be full,

486  
00:35:09,270 --> 00:35:13,350  
and then they'd dig another  
pit and put very more.

487  
00:35:13,350 --> 00:35:21,676  
And these were just died the  
last day or the last hours,

488  
00:35:21,676 --> 00:35:24,270  
and even they keep dying.

489  
00:35:24,270 --> 00:35:26,760  
We will have to take some  
of them out of the barracks

490  
00:35:26,760 --> 00:35:33,520  
and put them somewhere so that  
the diseases wouldn't spread.

491  
00:35:33,520 --> 00:35:38,010  
Then we walked around, and  
he sort of walked next to me.

492  
00:35:38,010 --> 00:35:39,540

It was such a grim sight.

493

00:35:39,540 --> 00:35:42,600

I couldn't even think of  
asking too many questions.

494

00:35:42,600 --> 00:35:44,070

But here and there, I would ask.

495

00:35:44,070 --> 00:35:48,450

For instance, I remember I saw  
one corpse laying in the street

496

00:35:48,450 --> 00:35:50,380

sort of sprawled out.

497

00:35:50,380 --> 00:35:54,360

So I said, how come  
he's just laying there?

498

00:35:54,360 --> 00:35:58,944

He said, yes, he was  
shot by the doctor.

499

00:35:58,944 --> 00:36:00,318

I said, what?

500

00:36:00,318 --> 00:36:05,300

Well, doctor, yes, a  
German military doctor

501

00:36:05,300 --> 00:36:11,046

who was there, and he  
saw him being shot.

502

00:36:11,046 --> 00:36:13,950

So I said, why did he shoot him?

503

00:36:13,950 --> 00:36:21,230

He said, well, the doctor didn't  
like that he looked at him.

504

00:36:21,230 --> 00:36:23,390  
He just turned around  
and looked at the doctor,

505  
00:36:23,390 --> 00:36:26,900  
and the doctor pulled out his  
pistol and shot him for that.

506  
00:36:26,900 --> 00:36:33,830  
But he didn't think much of it  
because death was so prevalent.

507  
00:36:33,830 --> 00:36:39,660  
But if you have pebbles  
on a sandy beach,

508  
00:36:39,660 --> 00:36:41,930  
you don't think, why  
is this pebble here,

509  
00:36:41,930 --> 00:36:44,010  
and why is that pebble there?

510  
00:36:44,010 --> 00:36:46,020  
They just happen to  
be that way, and this

511  
00:36:46,020 --> 00:36:49,120  
is the way these corpses  
were laying around.

512  
00:36:49,120 --> 00:36:55,700  
Then I went to this infirmary,  
a small barrack to one side.

513  
00:36:55,700 --> 00:36:58,460  
And at the outside  
of the infirmary,

514  
00:36:58,460 --> 00:37:01,320  
in typical Teutonic  
order, in this

515

00:37:01,320 --> 00:37:04,480

there was a time  
schedule of some kind

516

00:37:04,480 --> 00:37:07,990

pinned against the wall.

517

00:37:07,990 --> 00:37:10,570

Of course, it  
didn't mean a thing.

518

00:37:10,570 --> 00:37:19,620

And I walked in, and there was  
a large pile of corpses, maybe

519

00:37:19,620 --> 00:37:24,510

chest high, roughly, also  
piled against the wall

520

00:37:24,510 --> 00:37:32,420

and another pile just sort of  
in one area of this building.

521

00:37:32,420 --> 00:37:37,260

And so I walked out.

522

00:37:37,260 --> 00:37:39,440

I saw that.

523

00:37:39,440 --> 00:37:42,840

I have to also mention  
another feature that

524

00:37:42,840 --> 00:37:48,730

is unforgettable about this  
camp, which to this day

525

00:37:48,730 --> 00:37:52,240

still shocks me  
and nauseates me.

526

00:37:52,240 --> 00:37:53,165

That is the odor.

527  
00:37:53,165 --> 00:37:55,970

528  
00:37:55,970 --> 00:38:00,950  
This was in May in  
Northern Germany.

529  
00:38:00,950 --> 00:38:06,700  
The day was beautiful,  
clear, a beautiful day.

530  
00:38:06,700 --> 00:38:11,790  
It was a little  
nippy, not a warm day.

531  
00:38:11,790 --> 00:38:17,090  
But coming into the  
camp and in-- especially

532  
00:38:17,090 --> 00:38:26,090  
inside these barracks was  
a stench the likes of which

533  
00:38:26,090 --> 00:38:31,260  
I had never smelled  
before or after.

534  
00:38:31,260 --> 00:38:35,610  
It was not the stench  
of rotting corpses,

535  
00:38:35,610 --> 00:38:43,080  
which I had smelled after combat  
or after we took some town that

536  
00:38:43,080 --> 00:38:45,520  
was heavily shelled or bombed.

537  
00:38:45,520 --> 00:38:48,870  
The corpses would  
decay right and left.

538

00:38:48,870 --> 00:38:52,640

That has a peculiar  
smell itself.

539

00:38:52,640 --> 00:38:54,130

And you can sort of smell--

540

00:38:54,130 --> 00:38:56,400

after you're in the  
Army for a while,

541

00:38:56,400 --> 00:39:00,720

you differentiate the  
smell of human corpses

542

00:39:00,720 --> 00:39:09,030

from the smell of animals,  
say, dead horses, or dead cows,

543

00:39:09,030 --> 00:39:14,350

or goats, or dead geese, or  
whatever gets killed in a war

544

00:39:14,350 --> 00:39:17,430

when shrapnel flies  
all over the place.

545

00:39:17,430 --> 00:39:23,020

Well, these kind of corpses  
have their own peculiar smell,

546

00:39:23,020 --> 00:39:27,896

which is nauseating  
and very unpleasant.

547

00:39:27,896 --> 00:39:32,120

I can't say that I  
ever got used to it.

548

00:39:32,120 --> 00:39:44,530

But the concentration camp  
smell is so many degrees worse

549

00:39:44,530 --> 00:39:49,300

than the worst smell of  
decaying corpses in rubble,

550

00:39:49,300 --> 00:39:57,940

or in the open, and  
elsewhere that it is--

551

00:39:57,940 --> 00:40:02,950

it fills you with  
disgust and horror.

552

00:40:02,950 --> 00:40:06,580

I tried to speak  
little because I

553

00:40:06,580 --> 00:40:11,260

felt that I didn't want to open  
my mouth too much because I

554

00:40:11,260 --> 00:40:17,440

could feel almost the  
particles of that smell getting

555

00:40:17,440 --> 00:40:22,000

on my lips and, when I  
talked, getting into my mouth.

556

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:24,300

And I wanted to avoid that.

557

00:40:24,300 --> 00:40:27,140

558

00:40:27,140 --> 00:40:32,510

I didn't take a handkerchief or  
anything in front of my mouth.

559

00:40:32,510 --> 00:40:38,135

I was, I guess, too hardened  
for that by that time.

560

00:40:38,135 --> 00:40:43,170  
But I walked around,  
and that stench

561  
00:40:43,170 --> 00:40:49,730  
of those particular  
corpses rotting in there

562  
00:40:49,730 --> 00:40:59,062  
in the undescrivable filth  
that surrounded them,

563  
00:40:59,062 --> 00:41:02,500  
and their fecal matter,  
and the urine right

564  
00:41:02,500 --> 00:41:09,830  
on the spot in the rotting  
mattress-- not mattresses,

565  
00:41:09,830 --> 00:41:11,750  
but the straw that was rotting.

566  
00:41:11,750 --> 00:41:19,700  
Their clothing were rotting  
and no air cleaning this out.

567  
00:41:19,700 --> 00:41:23,630  
It was a smell that was--

568  
00:41:23,630 --> 00:41:26,750  
it sickens me when I  
think of it to this day.

569  
00:41:26,750 --> 00:41:29,940

570  
00:41:29,940 --> 00:41:34,790  
I remember after I visited,  
I finished my visit,

571  
00:41:34,790 --> 00:41:37,950  
and I had to drive

back through town

572

00:41:37,950 --> 00:41:40,420

to Ludwigslust

back to the office.

573

00:41:40,420 --> 00:41:43,320

I had a million things to do.

574

00:41:43,320 --> 00:41:50,150

I accelerated the Jeep

on that road pretty fast.

575

00:41:50,150 --> 00:41:55,460

It was an open Jeep, of course,

but it had the windshield up.

576

00:41:55,460 --> 00:42:00,890

I remember I was holding

the wheel in my hand,

577

00:42:00,890 --> 00:42:05,200

and leaning as far out

as I could from the Jeep,

578

00:42:05,200 --> 00:42:11,960

and opening my jacket and my

vest to let the wind clean me

579

00:42:11,960 --> 00:42:15,720

out if at all possible.

580

00:42:15,720 --> 00:42:19,420

But for several

days after that, I

581

00:42:19,420 --> 00:42:23,760

felt that my uniform

smelled, that I smelled,

582

00:42:23,760 --> 00:42:26,470

that my boots smelled, that

no matter what-- of course,

583  
00:42:26,470 --> 00:42:29,080  
I changed uniforms immediately.

584  
00:42:29,080 --> 00:42:32,690  
I kept on changing the uniforms.

585  
00:42:32,690 --> 00:42:36,610  
We had, luckily-- the US  
Army, you can imagine,

586  
00:42:36,610 --> 00:42:39,160  
we had quickly  
shower facilities.

587  
00:42:39,160 --> 00:42:40,390  
We had cleaning.

588  
00:42:40,390 --> 00:42:44,740  
I went through-- maybe  
the day after that,

589  
00:42:44,740 --> 00:42:48,140  
I went through five, or  
six, or maybe 10 showers,

590  
00:42:48,140 --> 00:42:50,800  
and I couldn't get  
that smell out of me.

591  
00:42:50,800 --> 00:42:54,540  
It was, of course, in my  
mind, but it was horrible.

592  
00:42:54,540 --> 00:43:02,560

593  
00:43:02,560 --> 00:43:05,540  
Was the reaction of  
others similar to yours?

594  
00:43:05,540 --> 00:43:06,040

Did--

595

00:43:06,040 --> 00:43:11,050

Practically identical,  
practically identical.

596

00:43:11,050 --> 00:43:15,820

I came back to my  
office from this visit,

597

00:43:15,820 --> 00:43:19,390

and I saw my colleagues.

598

00:43:19,390 --> 00:43:21,170

Two or three are there.

599

00:43:21,170 --> 00:43:23,790

600

00:43:23,790 --> 00:43:27,570

Another fellow with  
whom we were working,

601

00:43:27,570 --> 00:43:33,100

his name was Peters,  
Corporal Peters.

602

00:43:33,100 --> 00:43:38,666

He was one of the administrators  
in our detachment.

603

00:43:38,666 --> 00:43:41,820

And I told him, look,  
Pete, you have to go

604

00:43:41,820 --> 00:43:43,700

to that concentration camp.

605

00:43:43,700 --> 00:43:44,700

You wouldn't believe it.

606

00:43:44,700 --> 00:43:47,370

You've got to see it.

607

00:43:47,370 --> 00:43:49,500

I can't describe this.

608

00:43:49,500 --> 00:43:53,260

I located my commanding  
officer, Major Seward,

609

00:43:53,260 --> 00:43:57,330

who was a marvelous,  
a fine officer.

610

00:43:57,330 --> 00:44:02,850

I was very lucky to have  
been under his command.

611

00:44:02,850 --> 00:44:09,270

I told him, Major, I just come  
from this concentration camp.

612

00:44:09,270 --> 00:44:10,583

Go and see it.

613

00:44:10,583 --> 00:44:13,241

614

00:44:13,241 --> 00:44:15,100

I can't tell you.

615

00:44:15,100 --> 00:44:16,570

I can't describe it.

616

00:44:16,570 --> 00:44:20,470

You just have to go and see it.

617

00:44:20,470 --> 00:44:23,310

Others have been there--

618

00:44:23,310 --> 00:44:29,260

who have been there  
were so disgusted.

619  
00:44:29,260 --> 00:44:33,860  
But our disgust was not just  
with these physical conditions.

620  
00:44:33,860 --> 00:44:37,790  
It was, of course,  
repulsive and unpleasant.

621  
00:44:37,790 --> 00:44:50,890  
We were appalled at the Germans  
for doing this to people.

622  
00:44:50,890 --> 00:44:55,840  
We knew, of course,  
that the Germans

623  
00:44:55,840 --> 00:45:00,880  
were calling the East European  
peoples "Untermenschen,"

624  
00:45:00,880 --> 00:45:01,566  
subhumans.

625  
00:45:01,566 --> 00:45:04,850

626  
00:45:04,850 --> 00:45:08,800  
Well, when we saw this, we  
realized that the subhumans

627  
00:45:08,800 --> 00:45:11,515  
were not the East Europeans.

628  
00:45:11,515 --> 00:45:14,474  
They were the Germans.

629  
00:45:14,474 --> 00:45:19,100  
And we despised them  
all, whether they

630  
00:45:19,100 --> 00:45:22,550

were men, women,  
children, people that

631  
00:45:22,550 --> 00:45:24,590  
had nothing to do with this.

632  
00:45:24,590 --> 00:45:30,080  
We despised them to  
an extent that is--

633  
00:45:30,080 --> 00:45:37,584  
to this day, there is some  
of it that has survived.

634  
00:45:37,584 --> 00:45:45,380  
But a highly  
sophisticated, large nation

635  
00:45:45,380 --> 00:45:50,450  
of educated people  
like the Germans, who

636  
00:45:50,450 --> 00:45:57,270  
can be engineers on one side,  
who produced people like Goethe

637  
00:45:57,270 --> 00:46:04,040  
and their famous musicians,  
artists, architects,

638  
00:46:04,040 --> 00:46:08,510  
great thinkers,  
philosophers, and what

639  
00:46:08,510 --> 00:46:12,740  
have you, that a  
nation like that

640  
00:46:12,740 --> 00:46:17,060  
could sink to such behavior?

641  
00:46:17,060 --> 00:46:23,570  
Of course, they were saying they

didn't know anything about it.

642

00:46:23,570 --> 00:46:26,750

They had no idea they had  
concentration camps like that.

643

00:46:26,750 --> 00:46:29,800

644

00:46:29,800 --> 00:46:33,180

To this day, I can't buy that.

645

00:46:33,180 --> 00:46:35,750

Now, they were certainly  
not all Germans

646

00:46:35,750 --> 00:46:41,480

just because there were Germans  
were responsible to string up

647

00:46:41,480 --> 00:46:44,000

barbed wires, and build  
concentration camps,

648

00:46:44,000 --> 00:46:46,160

and herding people into it.

649

00:46:46,160 --> 00:46:46,730

No.

650

00:46:46,730 --> 00:46:48,500

Certainly, I know that.

651

00:46:48,500 --> 00:46:53,280

Certainly, I know that the  
SD, the Sicherheitsdienst,

652

00:46:53,280 --> 00:46:57,350

the secret police of different  
varieties that they had,

653

00:46:57,350 --> 00:47:01,880

the SS, of which  
they had two kinds,

654  
00:47:01,880 --> 00:47:08,540  
were really the instruments  
to create this havoc.

655  
00:47:08,540 --> 00:47:12,335  
And they were not more  
than perhaps, I don't know,

656  
00:47:12,335 --> 00:47:14,135  
10%, 20% of Germany.

657  
00:47:14,135 --> 00:47:16,820

658  
00:47:16,820 --> 00:47:23,310  
But other nations--  
look at France.

659  
00:47:23,310 --> 00:47:27,270  
There were revolutions.

660  
00:47:27,270 --> 00:47:32,970  
When excesses were committed,  
governments were overthrown.

661  
00:47:32,970 --> 00:47:36,120  
People would take risks.

662  
00:47:36,120 --> 00:47:43,930  
In Germany, when they attempted  
on July 20 to kill Hitler,

663  
00:47:43,930 --> 00:47:48,640  
Count von Stauffenberg,  
who planted the bomb,

664  
00:47:48,640 --> 00:47:52,310  
carefully walked out  
of the meeting room

665

00:47:52,310 --> 00:47:53,720  
before the bomb exploded.

666

00:47:53,720 --> 00:47:56,270

667

00:47:56,270 --> 00:47:58,870  
They were very careful  
revolutionaries.

668

00:47:58,870 --> 00:48:02,750  
And of course, in the  
meantime, somebody

669

00:48:02,750 --> 00:48:04,930  
moved the briefcase  
with the bomb,

670

00:48:04,930 --> 00:48:07,020  
and it didn't kill Hitler.

671

00:48:07,020 --> 00:48:13,040  
It was not a real revolution  
where the revolutionary fervor

672

00:48:13,040 --> 00:48:14,930  
takes the people to--

673

00:48:14,930 --> 00:48:20,540  
and impels them to take risks  
and overthrow the tyrants.

674

00:48:20,540 --> 00:48:27,020  
Since immemorial times  
when despots existed,

675

00:48:27,020 --> 00:48:33,500  
before written history, before  
hieroglyphics were devised,

676

00:48:33,500 --> 00:48:37,520  
before the cuneiform

writings were devised,

677

00:48:37,520 --> 00:48:39,560

there were already tyrants.

678

00:48:39,560 --> 00:48:44,030

Tyrants are as old as  
mankind, but people would

679

00:48:44,030 --> 00:48:46,400

take risks and overthrow them.

680

00:48:46,400 --> 00:48:52,250

In Germany, they were docile,  
servile, and were certainly--

681

00:48:52,250 --> 00:48:55,280

I heard them cheer myself.

682

00:48:55,280 --> 00:49:01,160

In 1933, when Hitler was  
making his demented speeches,

683

00:49:01,160 --> 00:49:02,420

I was only a young kid.

684

00:49:02,420 --> 00:49:08,150

I could already understand that  
this guy was completely crazy.

685

00:49:08,150 --> 00:49:11,930

I may have been very fortunate  
that my parents, especially

686

00:49:11,930 --> 00:49:16,400

my father, tried  
to guide us, to--

687

00:49:16,400 --> 00:49:19,520

my brother and myself  
to think a little bit

688

00:49:19,520 --> 00:49:21,740  
about what Hitler was saying.

689  
00:49:21,740 --> 00:49:23,860  
What meaning did it have?

690  
00:49:23,860 --> 00:49:26,300  
When we arrived in  
Italy, I remember

691  
00:49:26,300 --> 00:49:33,430  
we saw once Il Duce, not in  
person but in the newsreel.

692  
00:49:33,430 --> 00:49:36,770  
And after we came out of  
this Italian newsreel movie,

693  
00:49:36,770 --> 00:49:39,320  
my father asked my  
brother and myself--

694  
00:49:39,320 --> 00:49:41,960  
we were just, I don't  
know, maybe 15 or not

695  
00:49:41,960 --> 00:49:46,650  
even 15, maybe 12 or  
something like that--

696  
00:49:46,650 --> 00:49:53,410  
what did you think  
about Il Duce's speech,

697  
00:49:53,410 --> 00:49:57,490  
which was preceded by a long  
speech that Hitler made.

698  
00:49:57,490 --> 00:50:00,246  
Well, we didn't speak Italian.

699  
00:50:00,246 --> 00:50:05,710  
Of course, the German speech by

Hitler, we all understood it.

700

00:50:05,710 --> 00:50:08,590

But I remember that my brother,  
who was two years younger

701

00:50:08,590 --> 00:50:14,350

than myself, told my father,  
I don't understand, Daddy,

702

00:50:14,350 --> 00:50:18,990

how a grown man  
can act like that,

703

00:50:18,990 --> 00:50:22,520

blowing up his chest in  
front of all his people

704

00:50:22,520 --> 00:50:25,110

and bloating himself  
up like a baboon.

705

00:50:25,110 --> 00:50:28,850

706

00:50:28,850 --> 00:50:32,120

Yet the Italians  
didn't seem to mind.

707

00:50:32,120 --> 00:50:36,050

The Germans didn't think much  
more of Hitler's speeches

708

00:50:36,050 --> 00:50:39,880

although it was obvious  
that this man was demented.

709

00:50:39,880 --> 00:50:43,610

And many of us realized that.

710

00:50:43,610 --> 00:50:47,840

We were fortunate that  
perhaps because my father was

711  
00:50:47,840 --> 00:50:51,890  
more enlightened, we didn't  
stay in German to linger on

712  
00:50:51,890 --> 00:50:53,270  
to see this madness.

713  
00:50:53,270 --> 00:51:03,890  
And nevertheless, we saw that  
the German nation submitted--

714  
00:51:03,890 --> 00:51:07,510  
in fact, in my opinion,  
did more than submit.

715  
00:51:07,510 --> 00:51:10,010  
They yelled him  
into power thinking

716  
00:51:10,010 --> 00:51:14,300  
that German will be  
great again, and they

717  
00:51:14,300 --> 00:51:19,550  
were going to throw off the yoke  
of the Versailles Treaty, which

718  
00:51:19,550 --> 00:51:24,680  
they, of course, forget that  
they started World War I just

719  
00:51:24,680 --> 00:51:27,292  
as they started World War II.

720  
00:51:27,292 --> 00:51:31,940  
And they were going to correct  
the abuses of the Versailles

721  
00:51:31,940 --> 00:51:37,110  
Treaty by bringing  
this madman into power.

722

00:51:37,110 --> 00:51:42,300

And so when we saw this  
concentration camp, I--

723

00:51:42,300 --> 00:51:48,140

we didn't have to be  
told in the 82nd Airborne

724

00:51:48,140 --> 00:51:50,600

about the  
nonfraternization policy

725

00:51:50,600 --> 00:51:54,260

which the United  
States Army had.

726

00:51:54,260 --> 00:51:57,800

We didn't want to  
shake a German hand.

727

00:51:57,800 --> 00:52:00,020

We didn't want to  
smile at the German.

728

00:52:00,020 --> 00:52:03,080

729

00:52:03,080 --> 00:52:11,300

I was wavering back  
and forth from 1944

730

00:52:11,300 --> 00:52:15,350

to this day, back and  
forth between this paradox

731

00:52:15,350 --> 00:52:19,860

of the principle of  
collective guilt.

732

00:52:19,860 --> 00:52:23,580

There were times when I thought  
for sure all Germans are

733

00:52:23,580 --> 00:52:27,760

guilty by being Germans.

734

00:52:27,760 --> 00:52:31,760

And certainly, in 1945 and when  
I saw this concentration camp,

735

00:52:31,760 --> 00:52:35,210

I was totally convinced  
in the validity

736

00:52:35,210 --> 00:52:38,060

of the principle of  
collective guilt,

737

00:52:38,060 --> 00:52:42,740

that anybody who was a German  
was responsible for that

738

00:52:42,740 --> 00:52:47,060

by merely the fact that  
he did not rebel and risk

739

00:52:47,060 --> 00:52:49,040

his life against that.

740

00:52:49,040 --> 00:52:53,790

Therefore, he was  
acquiescing and guilty.

741

00:52:53,790 --> 00:53:00,050

Of course, I stayed on in  
Military Government for two

742

00:53:00,050 --> 00:53:02,960

years after the war ended.

743

00:53:02,960 --> 00:53:09,290

And I realized that there were  
countless Germans who were

744

00:53:09,290 --> 00:53:14,630

really powerless to do much.

745

00:53:14,630 --> 00:53:18,310

The German secret police  
was really quite efficient.

746

00:53:18,310 --> 00:53:20,860

747

00:53:20,860 --> 00:53:23,210

I remember when  
I was a youngster

748

00:53:23,210 --> 00:53:30,650

in France studying how Caesar  
in Rome maintained power.

749

00:53:30,650 --> 00:53:38,710

Caesar was a dictator, and  
he had the Praetorian Guard

750

00:53:38,710 --> 00:53:41,320

to maintain himself in power.

751

00:53:41,320 --> 00:53:44,810

His bodyguard, his palace  
was surrounded by them.

752

00:53:44,810 --> 00:53:47,630

753

00:53:47,630 --> 00:53:53,210

There were treatises written on  
the principles of maintaining

754

00:53:53,210 --> 00:53:55,740

a dictatorship alive.

755

00:53:55,740 --> 00:53:56,240

I remember.

756

00:53:56,240 --> 00:53:59,150

I don't remember now  
exactly who wrote them,

757  
00:53:59,150 --> 00:54:03,320  
but I remember having read  
about the principles of how

758  
00:54:03,320 --> 00:54:05,525  
a dictatorship functions.

759  
00:54:05,525 --> 00:54:06,980  
It applied.

760  
00:54:06,980 --> 00:54:12,820  
This particular one that  
I read described Caesar.

761  
00:54:12,820 --> 00:54:17,960  
But of course, Hitler was using  
exactly the same techniques.

762  
00:54:17,960 --> 00:54:25,980  
Hitler's Praetorian guards  
were the SS, the Schutzstaffel,

763  
00:54:25,980 --> 00:54:28,140  
the bodyguards.

764  
00:54:28,140 --> 00:54:31,890  
Then, of course, he  
organized a much bigger SS

765  
00:54:31,890 --> 00:54:37,470  
where they were drafting young,  
male Germans into the SS.

766  
00:54:37,470 --> 00:54:43,515  
This was the Waffen-SS,  
the armed SS.

767  
00:54:43,515 --> 00:54:45,830  
It was like the Wehrmacht.

768

00:54:45,830 --> 00:54:51,940

They were draftees, and they  
were different in behavior.

769

00:54:51,940 --> 00:54:56,460

But at that time, anybody  
who was a German I

770

00:54:56,460 --> 00:54:58,260

considered guilty.

771

00:54:58,260 --> 00:55:00,100

I remember even--

772

00:55:00,100 --> 00:55:06,430

I must admit being a little  
embarrassed if not ashamed--

773

00:55:06,430 --> 00:55:10,140

that in Aachen at the end,  
near the end of the war

774

00:55:10,140 --> 00:55:13,050

even before seeing this  
concentration camp,

775

00:55:13,050 --> 00:55:15,040

we were in a chow line.

776

00:55:15,040 --> 00:55:20,250

And in the 82nd  
Airborne, our general

777

00:55:20,250 --> 00:55:22,800

did terrific things  
for his troopers.

778

00:55:22,800 --> 00:55:25,770

In that particular case, one  
of the things that he did,

779

00:55:25,770 --> 00:55:28,860

he put us on double rations.

780  
00:55:28,860 --> 00:55:32,520  
So we got more food  
than we could eat.

781  
00:55:32,520 --> 00:55:38,100  
You know, a normal US ration  
is a pretty good ration,

782  
00:55:38,100 --> 00:55:42,600  
and we couldn't eat  
double the food.

783  
00:55:42,600 --> 00:55:44,790  
So in this particular  
chow line, it

784  
00:55:44,790 --> 00:55:48,910  
was in the winter,  
bloody cold weather.

785  
00:55:48,910 --> 00:55:52,860  
We got two steaks,  
mashed potatoes, carrots,

786  
00:55:52,860 --> 00:55:56,120  
and some things like  
that into our mess kit.

787  
00:55:56,120 --> 00:55:59,590  
I nibbled at one of my steaks.

788  
00:55:59,590 --> 00:56:05,640  
I ate a few of the other  
things that came with it.

789  
00:56:05,640 --> 00:56:08,010  
And finally, I  
couldn't eat any more.

790  
00:56:08,010 --> 00:56:10,980  
I threw it into a

big garbage pail,

791

00:56:10,980 --> 00:56:17,140

as did all the other

GIs in the line.

792

00:56:17,140 --> 00:56:20,260

But when the little

starving German kids

793

00:56:20,260 --> 00:56:23,650

came with their cans

to try to pick up

794

00:56:23,650 --> 00:56:28,180

some of that very fresh

and edible garbage,

795

00:56:28,180 --> 00:56:29,260

we kicked them away.

796

00:56:29,260 --> 00:56:33,130

We didn't want these blonde,

blue-eyed little monsters,

797

00:56:33,130 --> 00:56:35,750

in our minds, to eat that.

798

00:56:35,750 --> 00:56:37,880

We'd rather throw it out.

799

00:56:37,880 --> 00:56:45,590

It was horrible to be driven to

such a low level of humanity.

800

00:56:45,590 --> 00:56:48,400

In France or Belgium when

the same things, where ki--

801

00:56:48,400 --> 00:56:51,590

we would give them

the mess kit, empty it

802

00:56:51,590 --> 00:56:57,500

into their empty container  
just so that they could eat.

803

00:56:57,500 --> 00:57:00,110

In Germany, we didn't  
feel like doing that.

804

00:57:00,110 --> 00:57:03,900

Later, I realized, this--

805

00:57:03,900 --> 00:57:10,980

I was sinking to a level not  
so far different from theirs.

806

00:57:10,980 --> 00:57:16,970

So I tried to behave in  
a more civilized fashion.

807

00:57:16,970 --> 00:57:22,700

Sometimes when I would have  
discussions with some Red Army

808

00:57:22,700 --> 00:57:25,970

officers and men  
who were brutalizing

809

00:57:25,970 --> 00:57:28,085

their German captives  
beyond description--

810

00:57:28,085 --> 00:57:31,610

in one particular case, which  
was a day or two after we

811

00:57:31,610 --> 00:57:36,980

took this town, I had some  
dealings with the Red Army.

812

00:57:36,980 --> 00:57:41,090

And they threw in  
a German officer.

813

00:57:41,090 --> 00:57:47,630

And in front of me, right  
in the office where I was,

814

00:57:47,630 --> 00:57:51,440

three Red Army  
officers proceeded

815

00:57:51,440 --> 00:57:54,020

kicking him with tremen--

816

00:57:54,020 --> 00:57:57,950

not, you know, gentle kicks,  
but with tremendous force

817

00:57:57,950 --> 00:58:01,985

into the ribs, into the face,  
and all over with their boots.

818

00:58:01,985 --> 00:58:05,940

And they're sort of looking  
at me and said, huh?

819

00:58:05,940 --> 00:58:10,940

This is a treatment  
this fellow deserves.

820

00:58:10,940 --> 00:58:16,480

And I was appalled  
because we certainly--

821

00:58:16,480 --> 00:58:19,070

I don't say that we were  
gentle with our prisoners,

822

00:58:19,070 --> 00:58:23,810

but there was a limit beyond  
which we usually didn't go.

823

00:58:23,810 --> 00:58:27,170

Sometimes we did,  
but not usually.

824

00:58:27,170 --> 00:58:29,930

And I felt rather  
appalled at that

825

00:58:29,930 --> 00:58:33,500

and uncomfortable because  
I was a spectator.

826

00:58:33,500 --> 00:58:39,470

So this one Russian major turned  
to me and said to me, huh?

827

00:58:39,470 --> 00:58:42,310

What do you think of this?

828

00:58:42,310 --> 00:58:49,830

So I told them, well, we handle  
our prisoners differently.

829

00:58:49,830 --> 00:58:51,910

So he looked at  
me in astonishment

830

00:58:51,910 --> 00:58:53,690

and asked, well, how--

831

00:58:53,690 --> 00:58:55,590

what do you do with them?

832

00:58:55,590 --> 00:59:02,800

I said, well, of course  
they deserve that treatment.

833

00:59:02,800 --> 00:59:07,910

I have nothing of  
gentleness towards them.

834

00:59:07,910 --> 00:59:11,040

But they all have some  
valuable information.

835

00:59:11,040 --> 00:59:13,670

And to me, they are  
just like a lemon

836  
00:59:13,670 --> 00:59:18,590  
that has to be squeezed dry, and  
I extract whatever I have of--

837  
00:59:18,590 --> 00:59:20,910  
I can of value from them.

838  
00:59:20,910 --> 00:59:25,790  
So to me, if he's alive,  
I can extract something.

839  
00:59:25,790 --> 00:59:31,350  
If he's dead, the juice is lost.

840  
00:59:31,350 --> 00:59:33,420  
That's how I look at it.

841  
00:59:33,420 --> 00:59:36,050  
We have to pause  
for a few moments.

842  
00:59:36,050 --> 00:59:41,312