

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:33,200

2
00:00:33,200 --> 00:00:35,330
Good afternoon, my
name Mark Lender.

3
00:00:35,330 --> 00:00:36,860
I'm an administrator
and historian

4
00:00:36,860 --> 00:00:39,000
at Kean College of New Jersey.

5
00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:42,350
And with me this afternoon
is Dr. Bernard Weinstein,

6
00:00:42,350 --> 00:00:44,670
the Director of the Oral--

7
00:00:44,670 --> 00:00:47,420
of the Holocaust Oral
Testimonies Project,

8
00:00:47,420 --> 00:00:50,180
part of the Holocaust
Resource Center

9
00:00:50,180 --> 00:00:54,260
at Kean College of New Jersey,
also a professor of English

10
00:00:54,260 --> 00:00:55,760
here at the college.

11
00:00:55,760 --> 00:01:00,590
Our guest this afternoon
is Mr. Victor Wegard today.

12
00:01:00,590 --> 00:01:03,350

An investment banker from
Willingboro, New Jersey,

13
00:01:03,350 --> 00:01:07,790
but in the 1940s,
in the middle of a--

14
00:01:07,790 --> 00:01:10,460
what's part of a long
and distinguished career

15
00:01:10,460 --> 00:01:12,760
in the United States Army.

16
00:01:12,760 --> 00:01:14,900
This afternoon,
though, he's concerned

17
00:01:14,900 --> 00:01:19,310
with one particular part of
that American military career.

18
00:01:19,310 --> 00:01:23,630
In 1945 he was
part of a team that

19
00:01:23,630 --> 00:01:26,690
assisted in the liberation of
the Flossenburg Concentration

20
00:01:26,690 --> 00:01:27,750
Camp.

21
00:01:27,750 --> 00:01:29,920
And for the remainder
of this afternoon,

22
00:01:29,920 --> 00:01:35,570
he'll be discussing that and
his related activities with us.

23
00:01:35,570 --> 00:01:37,490
Mr. Wegard, we'd like

to begin the interview

24

00:01:37,490 --> 00:01:39,590

by asking you to explain
to us a little bit

25

00:01:39,590 --> 00:01:42,440

about your background,
where you were from,

26

00:01:42,440 --> 00:01:44,690

how you ended up in
the military, how,

27

00:01:44,690 --> 00:01:48,440

in particular, that you ended
up as part of the Flossenburg

28

00:01:48,440 --> 00:01:49,250

interrogation team.

29

00:01:49,250 --> 00:01:53,530

30

00:01:53,530 --> 00:01:55,990

I was born in New York.

31

00:01:55,990 --> 00:01:59,800

I consider myself a
New Yorker, Eastener.

32

00:01:59,800 --> 00:02:04,060

Entered the army
at age 18 in 1936,

33

00:02:04,060 --> 00:02:06,820

upon graduating
from high school,

34

00:02:06,820 --> 00:02:09,850

for one specific purpose.

35

00:02:09,850 --> 00:02:14,110
Billy Rose had taught me
shorthand and made a court

36
00:02:14,110 --> 00:02:16,060
reporter out of me.

37
00:02:16,060 --> 00:02:19,430
And convinced me, join
the army, and off to China

38
00:02:19,430 --> 00:02:22,150
you go, where for
\$2 a month you will

39
00:02:22,150 --> 00:02:26,180
have some of the most beautiful
Chinese servants working

40
00:02:26,180 --> 00:02:26,680
for you.

41
00:02:26,680 --> 00:02:31,120
And the rest of your \$18
a month, you will save.

42
00:02:31,120 --> 00:02:34,780
That impelled me into
the United States Army,

43
00:02:34,780 --> 00:02:40,960
forsaking a \$3,000 a year job
working in referee's courts.

44
00:02:40,960 --> 00:02:43,180
Except I never got to China.

45
00:02:43,180 --> 00:02:45,310
The boat went through
the Panama Canal.

46
00:02:45,310 --> 00:02:48,730
And the commanding general of

the Panama Canal Department

47

00:02:48,730 --> 00:02:53,030
in July of 1936 found there
was a court reporter aboard.

48

00:02:53,030 --> 00:02:55,340
And he says, just
the guy I need.

49

00:02:55,340 --> 00:02:58,000
Remained in Panama
for two years.

50

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:02,800
Succession of jobs in
the service, mostly

51

00:03:02,800 --> 00:03:05,200
with investigatory
agencies-- the Judge Advocate

52

00:03:05,200 --> 00:03:08,230
General and the Inspector
General, primarily

53

00:03:08,230 --> 00:03:12,340
as a reporter for
these tribunals.

54

00:03:12,340 --> 00:03:17,080
Then on to the Army War
College in Washington in 1938

55

00:03:17,080 --> 00:03:20,230
as a reporter for
the Army War College.

56

00:03:20,230 --> 00:03:23,920
And that was probably
its most famous class.

57

00:03:23,920 --> 00:03:27,040

All the future four star
generals of World War II

58
00:03:27,040 --> 00:03:31,345
were in that class, including
general Ridgway and General Van

59
00:03:31,345 --> 00:03:36,230
Fleet, General
Bradley, and others.

60
00:03:36,230 --> 00:03:41,890
Then we were original Lend
Lease in Trinidad in 1941.

61
00:03:41,890 --> 00:03:50,860
And were in Trinidad when Japan
invaded Hawaii, bombed Hawaii.

62
00:03:50,860 --> 00:03:54,460
And the war, as far as we knew
it, began for us at that time.

63
00:03:54,460 --> 00:03:57,430

64
00:03:57,430 --> 00:04:04,120
I was yanked out of Trinidad
by the Judge Advocate--

65
00:04:04,120 --> 00:04:07,960
Judge Advocate General of the
Trinidad sector in base command

66
00:04:07,960 --> 00:04:14,950
to fill a slot required
for a confidential aide.

67
00:04:14,950 --> 00:04:17,709
I was a warrant
officer at that time

68
00:04:17,709 --> 00:04:21,430

of officer status for General
Patton's headquarters.

69
00:04:21,430 --> 00:04:26,620
We were forming the Western
Task Force for the invasion

70
00:04:26,620 --> 00:04:28,990
of North Africa.

71
00:04:28,990 --> 00:04:31,090
I trained with the
Western Task Force

72
00:04:31,090 --> 00:04:34,870
and accompanied the Western
Task Force to Casablanca,

73
00:04:34,870 --> 00:04:38,170
actually landing at Fedala.

74
00:04:38,170 --> 00:04:40,370
Was with Patton through Tunisia.

75
00:04:40,370 --> 00:04:44,860
I was with him through Sicily.

76
00:04:44,860 --> 00:04:53,350
And there begins the travails
of the rest of my Army career.

77
00:04:53,350 --> 00:04:58,540
We were unfortunate to be
part of a group that remained

78
00:04:58,540 --> 00:05:01,570
fairly loyal to the old man.

79
00:05:01,570 --> 00:05:07,060
And as a result, the
war went on around us.

80

00:05:07,060 --> 00:05:08,590
The world had forgotten us.

81
00:05:08,590 --> 00:05:12,040
We were stranded in
Sicily for 10 months,

82
00:05:12,040 --> 00:05:14,560
living in villas,
no assignments,

83
00:05:14,560 --> 00:05:16,315
at headquarters without troops.

84
00:05:16,315 --> 00:05:19,630
The troops had been
taken away from us.

85
00:05:19,630 --> 00:05:21,890
After a while, boredom set in.

86
00:05:21,890 --> 00:05:24,790
And we tried every
possible means

87
00:05:24,790 --> 00:05:29,080
getting out of that island
and get back into the war,

88
00:05:29,080 --> 00:05:31,480
volunteering for
paratroopers, volunteering

89
00:05:31,480 --> 00:05:34,637
for Rangers, whatever--
even for the Navy, anything

90
00:05:34,637 --> 00:05:35,470
to get out of there.

91
00:05:35,470 --> 00:05:38,080

92

00:05:38,080 --> 00:05:39,640

That's how I wound
up on war crimes.

93

00:05:39,640 --> 00:05:42,670

Nobody else wanted the job.

94

00:05:42,670 --> 00:05:44,710

We were selected.

95

00:05:44,710 --> 00:05:48,700

There were a group
of 18 of us that

96

00:05:48,700 --> 00:05:53,770

were selected from around
the Mediterranean theater,

97

00:05:53,770 --> 00:05:58,090

back from Italy
and North Africa.

98

00:05:58,090 --> 00:06:00,950

And I was the only
one from Sicily.

99

00:06:00,950 --> 00:06:06,790

I was shipped back to the States
for three weeks of training up

100

00:06:06,790 --> 00:06:09,010

in the hills of Lebanon,
Tennessee at a school

101

00:06:09,010 --> 00:06:12,580

called Cumberland University,
whose only claim to fame

102

00:06:12,580 --> 00:06:15,490

prior to that time
was it was the home

103

00:06:15,490 --> 00:06:19,030
school of Cordell Hull.

104
00:06:19,030 --> 00:06:22,690
And we were given day
and night training

105
00:06:22,690 --> 00:06:28,960
in the rudiments of what we
may be looking for in entering

106
00:06:28,960 --> 00:06:30,910
concentration camps.

107
00:06:30,910 --> 00:06:33,430
What to anticipate, who
were the Nazis, what

108
00:06:33,430 --> 00:06:37,570
were the Nazis, who to look for,
how to handle situations as we

109
00:06:37,570 --> 00:06:38,660
come up to it.

110
00:06:38,660 --> 00:06:40,960
Mr. Wegard, was the first
time you heard any detail

111
00:06:40,960 --> 00:06:43,580
about the camps?

112
00:06:43,580 --> 00:06:46,270
We had heard rumors about camps.

113
00:06:46,270 --> 00:06:48,550
Now, for the first
time, we were exposed

114
00:06:48,550 --> 00:06:53,080
to classified information,
direct information about camps.

115

00:06:53,080 --> 00:06:58,120
And this is the summer of 1944.

116

00:06:58,120 --> 00:07:00,910
The information was mountainous.

117

00:07:00,910 --> 00:07:03,220
We never could go
through it all.

118

00:07:03,220 --> 00:07:05,400
We studied as much as we could.

119

00:07:05,400 --> 00:07:08,920
We took it camp, by
camp, by camp, by camp.

120

00:07:08,920 --> 00:07:11,920
The most notorious, of
course, being Auschwitz--

121

00:07:11,920 --> 00:07:14,080
quite a few reports
on Auschwitz--

122

00:07:14,080 --> 00:07:16,600
Buchenwald, Dachau.

123

00:07:16,600 --> 00:07:24,250
And a French camp,
Drancy, as I recall.

124

00:07:24,250 --> 00:07:26,630
Nothing about the
camp which we later

125

00:07:26,630 --> 00:07:31,720
were instrumental in
liberating, Flossenburg.

126

00:07:31,720 --> 00:07:35,380
But that's when we first learned

about the camps in the detail

127

00:07:35,380 --> 00:07:37,300

that you referring to.

128

00:07:37,300 --> 00:07:38,800

While the war was

still going on?

129

00:07:38,800 --> 00:07:39,610

While it was still going.

130

00:07:39,610 --> 00:07:41,485

You had this kind of

detail available to you.

131

00:07:41,485 --> 00:07:42,250

Correct.

132

00:07:42,250 --> 00:07:44,950

Did you know any

of the terminology

133

00:07:44,950 --> 00:07:48,763

that later came to light,

such as final solution?

134

00:07:48,763 --> 00:07:49,930

Were those terms new to you?

135

00:07:49,930 --> 00:07:51,430

I don't recall that.

136

00:07:51,430 --> 00:07:52,810

I don't recall that.

137

00:07:52,810 --> 00:07:55,890

We were dealing with

the harsh realities

138

00:07:55,890 --> 00:08:01,480

of death and persecution

after the fact,

139

00:08:01,480 --> 00:08:05,320

that these actually
occurring at the camp.

140

00:08:05,320 --> 00:08:08,560

The politics behind it,
we hadn't gotten into.

141

00:08:08,560 --> 00:08:12,220

And I don't think it
was the Army's intent

142

00:08:12,220 --> 00:08:15,285

to indoctrinate us with the--

143

00:08:15,285 --> 00:08:17,620

and I can't disagree with them--

144

00:08:17,620 --> 00:08:19,510

with the politics behind us.

145

00:08:19,510 --> 00:08:23,410

Only that these were
crimes against humanity.

146

00:08:23,410 --> 00:08:24,890

These were war crimes.

147

00:08:24,890 --> 00:08:30,100

We will be fulfilling a mission
which is, as they told us,

148

00:08:30,100 --> 00:08:33,970

Judge Advocate General told us,
probably the most significantly

149

00:08:33,970 --> 00:08:36,070

important mission
we'll ever have

150

00:08:36,070 --> 00:08:38,169
in our careers in the service.

151
00:08:38,169 --> 00:08:39,880
And it was the Judge
Advocate's Office

152
00:08:39,880 --> 00:08:40,870
that conducted the training?

153
00:08:40,870 --> 00:08:41,080
Yes.

154
00:08:41,080 --> 00:08:41,840
Military training at this point?

155
00:08:41,840 --> 00:08:42,340
Correct.

156
00:08:42,340 --> 00:08:45,186

157
00:08:45,186 --> 00:08:48,630
Now, at what point were
you rotated back to Europe?

158
00:08:48,630 --> 00:08:54,210
In September of 1944 we
were sent back to Europe.

159
00:08:54,210 --> 00:08:59,880
We remained at a
replacement depot in England

160
00:08:59,880 --> 00:09:01,800
in the Midlands.

161
00:09:01,800 --> 00:09:08,040
And then shoved into
Holland, working on claims

162
00:09:08,040 --> 00:09:10,980

against the United States.

163

00:09:10,980 --> 00:09:16,470

We filled in as claims officers
with clear instructions

164

00:09:16,470 --> 00:09:23,520

to be on the lookout for any
potential war crimes activities

165

00:09:23,520 --> 00:09:25,170

in the area.

166

00:09:25,170 --> 00:09:27,500

Well, we were in friendly areas.

167

00:09:27,500 --> 00:09:30,030

We were in Noord-Braobant
in Holland,

168

00:09:30,030 --> 00:09:32,010

south of the river Mass.

169

00:09:32,010 --> 00:09:35,040

It was already liberated by
the British and the Canadians.

170

00:09:35,040 --> 00:09:38,250

I think we were the
only Americans up there.

171

00:09:38,250 --> 00:09:42,270

And we would be flitting about
the countryside, settling

172

00:09:42,270 --> 00:09:44,970

claims for three guilders.

173

00:09:44,970 --> 00:09:50,520

Some Dutch farmer would walk
20 miles in [DUTCH] file

174

00:09:50,520 --> 00:09:53,760
a claim for an accidental
death of a cow when

175
00:09:53,760 --> 00:09:58,500
one of our paratroopers
in landing killed a cow.

176
00:09:58,500 --> 00:10:00,048
Needed some fresh meat.

177
00:10:00,048 --> 00:10:02,340
We would quietly settle these
claims right on the spot.

178
00:10:02,340 --> 00:10:05,520

179
00:10:05,520 --> 00:10:09,720
As the war was winding up
in the last week in April,

180
00:10:09,720 --> 00:10:16,290
we were pulled out of Eindhoven
in Holland and rushed to Paris.

181
00:10:16,290 --> 00:10:20,370
And for the first time now
we were given the designation

182
00:10:20,370 --> 00:10:24,450
as War Crimes
Investigating Team 68-32,

183
00:10:24,450 --> 00:10:27,840
at the Majestic Hotel in Paris.

184
00:10:27,840 --> 00:10:32,430
And we identified eight
or nine other teams there.

185
00:10:32,430 --> 00:10:36,780
The same type of

digital designation--

186
00:10:36,780 --> 00:10:40,620
68-31, 69-32, so
on and so forth.

187
00:10:40,620 --> 00:10:43,110
We were 68-32.

188
00:10:43,110 --> 00:10:45,750
We were given an assigned
area of responsibility

189
00:10:45,750 --> 00:10:47,280
in operations.

190
00:10:47,280 --> 00:10:50,250
All of Bavaria, from the
river-- from the town

191
00:10:50,250 --> 00:10:55,800
of Hof in the north
to the River Danube.

192
00:10:55,800 --> 00:11:01,350
Below the Danube, I believe
was 68-31 territory.

193
00:11:01,350 --> 00:11:04,440
Approximately how many
people were, say, in 68-32?

194
00:11:04,440 --> 00:11:06,450
We were four officers
and 12 enlisted men.

195
00:11:06,450 --> 00:11:09,373

196
00:11:09,373 --> 00:11:11,540
And that was strictly the
investigatory unit though?

197

00:11:11,540 --> 00:11:14,255

Yes, strictly investigatory.

198

00:11:14,255 --> 00:11:17,790

And with that you can draw on
infantry support, for example?

199

00:11:17,790 --> 00:11:20,360

Oh, yes, we have Carte
Blanche to draw on--

200

00:11:20,360 --> 00:11:24,560

we had the-- we could
command logistical support

201

00:11:24,560 --> 00:11:28,220

from any engineering, any
quartermaster, any infantry,

202

00:11:28,220 --> 00:11:32,088

any combat, non-combat
units in the area,

203

00:11:32,088 --> 00:11:34,130

primarily through the
program Marshal in the area

204

00:11:34,130 --> 00:11:36,950

or whoever the commanding
officer may be.

205

00:11:36,950 --> 00:11:41,110

206

00:11:41,110 --> 00:11:45,630

At this juncture, when did
you receive your first orders

207

00:11:45,630 --> 00:11:48,250

that sent you toward a camp?

208

00:11:48,250 --> 00:11:51,930

We had received orders
to proceed into Nuremberg

209
00:11:51,930 --> 00:11:55,320
to help secure the Palace of
Justice for the oncoming--

210
00:11:55,320 --> 00:11:59,850
for the forthcoming
major war crimes trials.

211
00:11:59,850 --> 00:12:03,660
And at the same time to find a
headquarters for our own team

212
00:12:03,660 --> 00:12:05,280
operation.

213
00:12:05,280 --> 00:12:08,700
And while we were
in Nuremberg, we

214
00:12:08,700 --> 00:12:12,900
received word from our
headquarters back in Paris

215
00:12:12,900 --> 00:12:17,040
to attach ourselves to the
91st Infantry Division going

216
00:12:17,040 --> 00:12:19,140
to take Flossenburg.

217
00:12:19,140 --> 00:12:22,800
And the keywords were
that it is believed

218
00:12:22,800 --> 00:12:27,430
that Admiral Canaris, the
Chief of the German Abwehr,

219
00:12:27,430 --> 00:12:30,690
was incarcerated at Flossenburg

and may still be alive.

220

00:12:30,690 --> 00:12:32,790

The abwehr was Chief of
Military Intelligence?

221

00:12:32,790 --> 00:12:36,150

Yes, the head intelligence
honcho in Germany.

222

00:12:36,150 --> 00:12:39,240

223

00:12:39,240 --> 00:12:46,560

A prominent-- many prominent
Ecclesiastes were also there--

224

00:12:46,560 --> 00:12:50,400

editors, Schuschnigg
of Austria was there--

225

00:12:50,400 --> 00:12:53,670

to liberate the camp, assist
in liberation of the camp,

226

00:12:53,670 --> 00:12:58,860

and bring Canaris and any
of these political prisoners

227

00:12:58,860 --> 00:13:02,130

we find there back
to our military,

228

00:13:02,130 --> 00:13:04,480

to Wiesbaden as
quickly as possible.

229

00:13:04,480 --> 00:13:06,090

So for all intents
and purposes, you

230

00:13:06,090 --> 00:13:10,200

thought your job was military

intelligence and doing--

231
00:13:10,200 --> 00:13:11,010
At that time--

232
00:13:11,010 --> 00:13:12,593
--something for
military intelligence.

233
00:13:12,593 --> 00:13:15,013
--we had a specific
mission to perform there.

234
00:13:15,013 --> 00:13:18,800

235
00:13:18,800 --> 00:13:22,240
I'm supposing then that
a unit the size of yours

236
00:13:22,240 --> 00:13:25,545
did not proceed
on the camp alone.

237
00:13:25,545 --> 00:13:27,850
Oh, no, Infantry proceeded us.

238
00:13:27,850 --> 00:13:29,420
And you expected
that there may well

239
00:13:29,420 --> 00:13:30,670
be fighting in the situation--

240
00:13:30,670 --> 00:13:31,405
Yes.

241
00:13:31,405 --> 00:13:33,730
--of the war still going on.

242
00:13:33,730 --> 00:13:38,500
Can you describe to us

your approach to the camp?

243

00:13:38,500 --> 00:13:40,060

What was it all like
as you moved in?

244

00:13:40,060 --> 00:13:40,852

Was there fighting?

245

00:13:40,852 --> 00:13:41,680

Was there not?

246

00:13:41,680 --> 00:13:44,050

The fighting had
abated almost entirely

247

00:13:44,050 --> 00:13:46,320

by the time we got to the camp.

248

00:13:46,320 --> 00:13:49,000

We got there late
in the first day

249

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:51,670

of the liberation of the camp.

250

00:13:51,670 --> 00:13:54,850

There was still some
fighting inside the camp,

251

00:13:54,850 --> 00:13:59,800

mainly by the flushing
out of some kapos

252

00:13:59,800 --> 00:14:02,620

or some Germans that were
hiding within the camp.

253

00:14:02,620 --> 00:14:07,750

The camp was full of
quarries, many places to hide.

254

00:14:07,750 --> 00:14:12,520
And on the outskirts of camp,
beyond the electric fence,

255
00:14:12,520 --> 00:14:14,340
very thick forested area.

256
00:14:14,340 --> 00:14:17,770

257
00:14:17,770 --> 00:14:20,530
We believed that our
mission was accomplished

258
00:14:20,530 --> 00:14:25,720
when we broke into the
camp and we learned that,

259
00:14:25,720 --> 00:14:30,430
from the prisoners themselves,
that Canaris had been hung,

260
00:14:30,430 --> 00:14:35,200
had been executed just three,
four days before we got there.

261
00:14:35,200 --> 00:14:39,430
All of the priests
and other Ecclesiastes

262
00:14:39,430 --> 00:14:41,860
there were executed.

263
00:14:41,860 --> 00:14:45,330
Schuschnigg was still alive.

264
00:14:45,330 --> 00:14:47,860
And other people
were found there,

265
00:14:47,860 --> 00:14:51,090
including a cousin in the camp.

266

00:14:51,090 --> 00:14:54,660

We remained there
just overnight.

267

00:14:54,660 --> 00:14:57,490

And then proceeded back
to Nuremberg with a report

268

00:14:57,490 --> 00:15:02,880

that the people we were looking
for were no longer there.

269

00:15:02,880 --> 00:15:07,620

We were then told
to proceed back

270

00:15:07,620 --> 00:15:12,250

to Flossenburg to commence--
pick up the Flossenburg

271

00:15:12,250 --> 00:15:18,060

camp as a case for War Crimes
Investigating Team 68-32,

272

00:15:18,060 --> 00:15:21,090

assist in the apprehension
of perpetrators,

273

00:15:21,090 --> 00:15:23,040

rounding up of
witnesses, collation

274

00:15:23,040 --> 00:15:27,060

of evidence for forthcoming
possible war crimes trials

275

00:15:27,060 --> 00:15:28,390

there.

276

00:15:28,390 --> 00:15:31,980

When we got back to the
camp, for the first time

277

00:15:31,980 --> 00:15:36,810
we learned what we should have
learned immediately after we

278

00:15:36,810 --> 00:15:38,460
entered the camp several days--

279

00:15:38,460 --> 00:15:40,110
the day prior.

280

00:15:40,110 --> 00:15:42,030
That there were only--

281

00:15:42,030 --> 00:15:43,800
there were less
than 2,000 prisoners

282

00:15:43,800 --> 00:15:45,750
in the camp when we got there.

283

00:15:45,750 --> 00:15:49,260
We had been informed that
they were close to 5,000.

284

00:15:49,260 --> 00:15:53,880
We now learned from those
prisoners who were lucid enough

285

00:15:53,880 --> 00:15:58,980
to talk coherently that
the Germans had marched out

286

00:15:58,980 --> 00:16:02,790
most of the camp the
day before we got there.

287

00:16:02,790 --> 00:16:04,770
They started two days
before we got there.

288

00:16:04,770 --> 00:16:07,440
And the bulk of the

camp was out of there

289

00:16:07,440 --> 00:16:11,550
approximately 36 hours before
the infantry troops broke in.

290

00:16:11,550 --> 00:16:14,580
They had gone east along
N14 toward the Czech border.

291

00:16:14,580 --> 00:16:17,980
We were just a few miles
from the Czech border.

292

00:16:17,980 --> 00:16:23,360
So the team, our entire
team, was now intact.

293

00:16:23,360 --> 00:16:25,110
Priorily, there was
just an advance guard.

294

00:16:25,110 --> 00:16:27,420
And now our entire
team was together.

295

00:16:27,420 --> 00:16:33,880
We arranged for a platoon
of infantry to come with us.

296

00:16:33,880 --> 00:16:40,770
We started out after on N14
on that so-called death march,

297

00:16:40,770 --> 00:16:41,910
as we began to name it.

298

00:16:41,910 --> 00:16:44,700

299

00:16:44,700 --> 00:16:48,540
We had heard of death marches.

300

00:16:48,540 --> 00:16:52,660

We were running into them
now in other sectors.

301

00:16:52,660 --> 00:16:54,270

So we had every
reason to believe

302

00:16:54,270 --> 00:16:56,420

we were going to be
enmeshed in one right here.

303

00:16:56,420 --> 00:16:58,620

And sure enough, we were.

304

00:16:58,620 --> 00:17:03,540

A few miles east
of Flossenburg, we

305

00:17:03,540 --> 00:17:06,720

came to town by the
name of Namering,

306

00:17:06,720 --> 00:17:10,020

a very quaint little dorf.

307

00:17:10,020 --> 00:17:14,003

Not a mark on any of the
buildings, as if the war

308

00:17:14,003 --> 00:17:17,310

had passed it by completely.

309

00:17:17,310 --> 00:17:20,220

The few villages that were
in the-- and the burgers that

310

00:17:20,220 --> 00:17:22,650

were in the street
were asked whether they

311

00:17:22,650 --> 00:17:25,230

had seen any prisoners
being marched through,

312
00:17:25,230 --> 00:17:28,230
or any Germans, or any
military going through.

313
00:17:28,230 --> 00:17:32,580
[GERMAN], saw nothing.

314
00:17:32,580 --> 00:17:35,430
Look around you, the
war passed us by here.

315
00:17:35,430 --> 00:17:38,840

316
00:17:38,840 --> 00:17:41,711
We got a hold of
the burgomaster.

317
00:17:41,711 --> 00:17:45,380
The same thing-- we're
peace-loving people.

318
00:17:45,380 --> 00:17:47,150
We saw nothing.

319
00:17:47,150 --> 00:17:49,130
We heard nothing.

320
00:17:49,130 --> 00:17:51,410
You must have us mistaken
with some other town.

321
00:17:51,410 --> 00:17:58,035
Yet, we knew N14 was the only
clear route between Flossenbourg

322
00:17:58,035 --> 00:17:58,910
and the Czech border.

323

00:17:58,910 --> 00:18:00,620
So they would have had to have
passed through those areas.

324
00:18:00,620 --> 00:18:02,120
They would have to
go through there.

325
00:18:02,120 --> 00:18:05,030
We felt they were lying,
but what can you do?

326
00:18:05,030 --> 00:18:07,520
Hopped back into our Jeeps.

327
00:18:07,520 --> 00:18:12,050
Continued on N14 for about a
mile outside of the Namerling.

328
00:18:12,050 --> 00:18:15,290
Then we got hit with a stench
to the likes of which I never

329
00:18:15,290 --> 00:18:17,660
want to face again--

330
00:18:17,660 --> 00:18:20,300
rotted corpses.

331
00:18:20,300 --> 00:18:23,750
We stopped the Jeeps.

332
00:18:23,750 --> 00:18:27,860
We took a look along the edge--
both sides of the highway.

333
00:18:27,860 --> 00:18:32,780
Fresh mounds of earth just
running for maybe 100 yards.

334
00:18:32,780 --> 00:18:38,090
The old man got out,
pulled the shovel off

335
00:18:38,090 --> 00:18:41,825
the rear of the lead
Jeep and began digging--

336
00:18:41,825 --> 00:18:45,170
the Colonel began digging.

337
00:18:45,170 --> 00:18:46,170
Your commanding officer?

338
00:18:46,170 --> 00:18:47,020
Yeah.

339
00:18:47,020 --> 00:18:52,490
He's now uncovering hands, arms,
and faces in 3 feet of soil.

340
00:18:52,490 --> 00:18:55,760
The rest of us get out of
the Jeeps, began digging.

341
00:18:55,760 --> 00:19:00,410
Wherever we landed a shovel,
there was a body there.

342
00:19:00,410 --> 00:19:02,750
And the blood was still
oozing from some of them.

343
00:19:02,750 --> 00:19:05,060
You could see it was--
these were fresh wounds.

344
00:19:05,060 --> 00:19:08,735
The heads were stove in or their
heads were partially blown off

345
00:19:08,735 --> 00:19:11,630
with machine gun blasts.

346
00:19:11,630 --> 00:19:15,350

At this point, after
several hours of this,

347
00:19:15,350 --> 00:19:17,180
we could take it no longer.

348
00:19:17,180 --> 00:19:19,160
Someone came up with
the bright idea--

349
00:19:19,160 --> 00:19:23,363
we had radioed back
to 3rd Army, let

350
00:19:23,363 --> 00:19:24,530
them know what we had found.

351
00:19:24,530 --> 00:19:27,170
And we were given
instructions, or at least

352
00:19:27,170 --> 00:19:30,080
Colonel [? Matze, ?]
our team commander,

353
00:19:30,080 --> 00:19:33,930
his recommendation was approved
to round up every man, woman,

354
00:19:33,930 --> 00:19:36,710
and child back in
that town in Namering,

355
00:19:36,710 --> 00:19:42,022
and haul them out and let
them see what they didn't see.

356
00:19:42,022 --> 00:19:44,480
In the bodies that you found,
were there women and children

357
00:19:44,480 --> 00:19:45,960
as well as men?

358
00:19:45,960 --> 00:19:50,510
In the bodies that we found,
we found no children, no.

359
00:19:50,510 --> 00:19:53,000
We found very few women.

360
00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:53,960
They were mostly men.

361
00:19:53,960 --> 00:19:58,220
And most of them Ecclesiastes--

362
00:19:58,220 --> 00:20:03,170
Czech priests, French
priests, political figures

363
00:20:03,170 --> 00:20:05,372
we've never been
able to identify.

364
00:20:05,372 --> 00:20:09,200

365
00:20:09,200 --> 00:20:11,750
They continued the digging.

366
00:20:11,750 --> 00:20:16,820
We dug up 1,803 or
1,804 bodies there.

367
00:20:16,820 --> 00:20:22,100
And the 3rd Army ordered
a proper burial for them

368
00:20:22,100 --> 00:20:27,770
in the adjacent to the
Namering town cemetery,

369
00:20:27,770 --> 00:20:32,568
in land that they very willingly

granted for that purpose.

370
00:20:32,568 --> 00:20:33,860
Let's hope they're still there.

371
00:20:33,860 --> 00:20:36,800

372
00:20:36,800 --> 00:20:38,810
And we left.

373
00:20:38,810 --> 00:20:40,970
We took pictures of this.

374
00:20:40,970 --> 00:20:42,860
And frankly, we've
been criticized

375
00:20:42,860 --> 00:20:45,050
for some of those
pictures because we

376
00:20:45,050 --> 00:20:50,100
forced every man, woman, and
child today, and every man,

377
00:20:50,100 --> 00:20:53,465
woman, and child to get
down close to those bodies

378
00:20:53,465 --> 00:20:57,230
to be sure they can't mistake
the notion that those are

379
00:20:57,230 --> 00:20:59,990
bodies, things that they
said never happened,

380
00:20:59,990 --> 00:21:01,220
were not there before.

381
00:21:01,220 --> 00:21:03,500

What was their reaction
when they were--

382
00:21:03,500 --> 00:21:04,550
They were very stolid.

383
00:21:04,550 --> 00:21:07,265

384
00:21:07,265 --> 00:21:12,830
A couple of the women were
emotional, very emotional.

385
00:21:12,830 --> 00:21:15,110
But other than that, they--

386
00:21:15,110 --> 00:21:19,130
Was there ever any admission
from the citizens of the town

387
00:21:19,130 --> 00:21:23,390
that, indeed, they had seen
these prisoners come through?

388
00:21:23,390 --> 00:21:26,910
Would you believe
that to this day,

389
00:21:26,910 --> 00:21:30,890
I can't recall any of
them admitting or changing

390
00:21:30,890 --> 00:21:33,290
their story that
they saw nothing,

391
00:21:33,290 --> 00:21:34,790
including the burgomaster.

392
00:21:34,790 --> 00:21:36,530
We mind our own business.

393

00:21:36,530 --> 00:21:39,920

They may have come through, but
we're busy with other things.

394

00:21:39,920 --> 00:21:40,730

We didn't hear it.

395

00:21:40,730 --> 00:21:41,540

We didn't see it.

396

00:21:41,540 --> 00:21:42,800

They were quiet.

397

00:21:42,800 --> 00:21:44,520

I can't see how they'd be quiet.

398

00:21:44,520 --> 00:21:46,740

There were artifacts
all over the world.

399

00:21:46,740 --> 00:21:50,072

3,000 people on a march
creates some kind of a racket.

400

00:21:50,072 --> 00:21:51,030

And they were marching.

401

00:21:51,030 --> 00:21:51,860

They were not in trucks.

402

00:21:51,860 --> 00:21:52,860

This was a forced march.

403

00:21:52,860 --> 00:21:54,920

A march, oh, yes.

404

00:21:54,920 --> 00:21:58,280

And you can visualize
guards barking,

405

00:21:58,280 --> 00:22:00,170

people being shot if

they didn't keep up

406

00:22:00,170 --> 00:22:01,730
with them all along the road.

407

00:22:01,730 --> 00:22:05,930
Because we found isolated graves
along that road on a our march

408

00:22:05,930 --> 00:22:08,300
back-- on our trip
back to Flossenburg,

409

00:22:08,300 --> 00:22:11,030
as we began looking closer.

410

00:22:11,030 --> 00:22:13,700
And as your team and its
escort came through--

411

00:22:13,700 --> 00:22:15,860
I'm just trying to put
a time frame together

412

00:22:15,860 --> 00:22:18,050
from what you've
been telling us--

413

00:22:18,050 --> 00:22:21,170
it sounds like
these people missed

414

00:22:21,170 --> 00:22:23,727
being liberated by no more
than a day and a half or so.

415

00:22:23,727 --> 00:22:24,560
Is that about right?

416

00:22:24,560 --> 00:22:27,140
That's correct.

417

00:22:27,140 --> 00:22:28,310
That's correct.

418
00:22:28,310 --> 00:22:32,180
Did you ever find
out why those inmates

419
00:22:32,180 --> 00:22:37,520
whom you met in Flossenburg,
why they were not taken as well?

420
00:22:37,520 --> 00:22:39,740
Was any reason ever given?

421
00:22:39,740 --> 00:22:41,900
Was anything ever
explained to you?

422
00:22:41,900 --> 00:22:43,970
Yes, we had asked that reason.

423
00:22:43,970 --> 00:22:50,510
And we found that common
ordinary laborers--

424
00:22:50,510 --> 00:22:53,180
I don't want to use the term--
the so-called lower classes

425
00:22:53,180 --> 00:22:54,740
were left behind.

426
00:22:54,740 --> 00:22:58,550
The Germans still felt,
really still felt, I believe,

427
00:22:58,550 --> 00:23:00,740
that they were
bringing scientists,

428
00:23:00,740 --> 00:23:04,700
and technical people, and people
that they can still continue

429

00:23:04,700 --> 00:23:09,440
to utilize in their labor forces
out of the camp for future use.

430

00:23:09,440 --> 00:23:11,135
They really believed
in that march.

431

00:23:11,135 --> 00:23:13,010
It wasn't supposed
to be a death march.

432

00:23:13,010 --> 00:23:16,140
They thought they were fleeing
to the new Nazi redoubt

433

00:23:16,140 --> 00:23:18,350
somewhere in the hills.

434

00:23:18,350 --> 00:23:20,910
Their orders were confusing.

435

00:23:20,910 --> 00:23:25,070
They were just told to
evacuate as many prisoners,

436

00:23:25,070 --> 00:23:27,560
be very selective in your
prisoners, out of the camp.

437

00:23:27,560 --> 00:23:30,950
But very fortunate for
us, they killed very few

438

00:23:30,950 --> 00:23:34,430
that remained behind, maybe
just a few hundred, that's all.

439

00:23:34,430 --> 00:23:38,210
Which takes us back to the
nature of the camp itself.

440

00:23:38,210 --> 00:23:40,640

You mentioned earlier that
the most notorious, of course,

441

00:23:40,640 --> 00:23:42,200

was Auschwitz.

442

00:23:42,200 --> 00:23:45,090

Flossenburg itself was not
nearly the size of Auschwitz.

443

00:23:45,090 --> 00:23:45,590

Right.

444

00:23:45,590 --> 00:23:49,910

Could you describe both the
physical nature of the camp

445

00:23:49,910 --> 00:23:53,150

as you saw it, and as
you later proceeded it,

446

00:23:53,150 --> 00:23:54,740

the purpose of that
camp as opposed

447

00:23:54,740 --> 00:23:58,040

to a camp like Auschwitz?

448

00:23:58,040 --> 00:24:03,890

Well, I don't think there's
much of a resemblance

449

00:24:03,890 --> 00:24:06,320

to, as I visualize Auschwitz.

450

00:24:06,320 --> 00:24:12,200

To me, Auschwitz was more of
a permanent brick building,

451

00:24:12,200 --> 00:24:16,400

a barracks type set up.

452
00:24:16,400 --> 00:24:19,550
Flossenburg was a quarry town.

453
00:24:19,550 --> 00:24:22,490
And I would presume was
a quarry town before it

454
00:24:22,490 --> 00:24:24,890
became a concentration camp.

455
00:24:24,890 --> 00:24:31,400
And that it had transient
workers in the area.

456
00:24:31,400 --> 00:24:33,440
So the buildings
there, as I recall,

457
00:24:33,440 --> 00:24:39,350
they were all of wood, more
or less temporary structures,

458
00:24:39,350 --> 00:24:41,150
wooden Quonset
huts, so to speak,

459
00:24:41,150 --> 00:24:43,460
if there could be such a thing.

460
00:24:43,460 --> 00:24:45,845
The only buildings that were
concrete, that I recall,

461
00:24:45,845 --> 00:24:48,860
that were there were the
administration building.

462
00:24:48,860 --> 00:24:52,100
One of the crematorium
was out of wood,

463

00:24:52,100 --> 00:24:53,540
another one was out concrete.

464
00:24:53,540 --> 00:24:54,830
There were two of them.

465
00:24:54,830 --> 00:24:56,840
And there, let me make a remark.

466
00:24:56,840 --> 00:25:00,800
They bragged-- the
Germans at Flossenburg

467
00:25:00,800 --> 00:25:03,890
bragged about their
gas chamber, which I'd

468
00:25:03,890 --> 00:25:05,810
like to show you a picture of.

469
00:25:05,810 --> 00:25:08,450
They felt-- they claimed
it was the most perfect gas

470
00:25:08,450 --> 00:25:11,900
chamber ever made
for the Germans,

471
00:25:11,900 --> 00:25:14,720
much more efficient
than Auschwitz,

472
00:25:14,720 --> 00:25:17,120
much more efficient than Dachau.

473
00:25:17,120 --> 00:25:19,160
And really, it looked
like a bathhouse,

474
00:25:19,160 --> 00:25:25,640
with tile floors, tile walls, a
massive bathroom, shower room,

475

00:25:25,640 --> 00:25:30,200

a very modernistic, very
efficient looking room.

476

00:25:30,200 --> 00:25:36,560

And they had only recently in
their existence begun using it.

477

00:25:36,560 --> 00:25:38,924

So this became a source
of pride for them?

478

00:25:38,924 --> 00:25:40,580

Yeah.

479

00:25:40,580 --> 00:25:42,200

But it clearly was a death camp.

480

00:25:42,200 --> 00:25:44,850

Oh, definitely.

481

00:25:44,850 --> 00:25:48,200

They killed-- we didn't--

482

00:25:48,200 --> 00:25:52,220

were not aware of it to
any great extent in 1945,

483

00:25:52,220 --> 00:25:56,720

but in our in-depth research
back in 1985, back at the camp,

484

00:25:56,720 --> 00:26:01,250

we now learned that they
killed thousands upon thousands

485

00:26:01,250 --> 00:26:03,640

of Russian POWs there.

486

00:26:03,640 --> 00:26:06,650

The Russians were
evacuated from other camps

487
00:26:06,650 --> 00:26:12,740
and brought to Flossenburg
strictly for elimination.

488
00:26:12,740 --> 00:26:15,060
No records kept whatsoever.

489
00:26:15,060 --> 00:26:17,540
So that the next of kin of
those Russians will never know

490
00:26:17,540 --> 00:26:19,670
the they died anywhere.

491
00:26:19,670 --> 00:26:22,940
Do you know whether
initial selections

492
00:26:22,940 --> 00:26:25,117
were made, as were made
at Auschwitz, Birkenau,

493
00:26:25,117 --> 00:26:26,450
and Treblinka, and other places?

494
00:26:26,450 --> 00:26:27,410
I don't believe so.

495
00:26:27,410 --> 00:26:32,960
It was more of an orderly
fashion than here.

496
00:26:32,960 --> 00:26:41,190
To the best of my knowledge,
approximately 100,000 total

497
00:26:41,190 --> 00:26:46,320
were eliminated at Flossenburg,
a relatively small number

498
00:26:46,320 --> 00:26:49,350

for a major concentration camp.

499

00:26:49,350 --> 00:26:52,353

Its importance stems
from another direction.

500

00:26:52,353 --> 00:26:54,645

That's where they built the
Messerschmidt, whether they

501

00:26:54,645 --> 00:26:56,340

were aware of it or not.

502

00:26:56,340 --> 00:26:58,720

The Messerschmidt was
built underground.

503

00:26:58,720 --> 00:26:59,540

The 262.

504

00:26:59,540 --> 00:27:00,040

Yeah.

505

00:27:00,040 --> 00:27:00,540

The jet.

506

00:27:00,540 --> 00:27:03,150

Yes, at Flossenburg.

507

00:27:03,150 --> 00:27:04,410

We were aware of it.

508

00:27:04,410 --> 00:27:05,565

We couldn't bomb it.

509

00:27:05,565 --> 00:27:06,360

It was a camp.

510

00:27:06,360 --> 00:27:10,370

Using slave labor from the camp?

511

00:27:10,370 --> 00:27:11,730
Correct.

512
00:27:11,730 --> 00:27:17,402
When you approached
the camp, coming in,

513
00:27:17,402 --> 00:27:19,110
knowing that there
was still some danger,

514
00:27:19,110 --> 00:27:21,277
that you had expected
fighting, that there was still

515
00:27:21,277 --> 00:27:24,990
an occasional shot
being fired, how

516
00:27:24,990 --> 00:27:26,250
did the prisoners greet you?

517
00:27:26,250 --> 00:27:28,260
What was their condition,
was their reaction

518
00:27:28,260 --> 00:27:29,155
as you came through?

519
00:27:29,155 --> 00:27:29,780
Very emotional.

520
00:27:29,780 --> 00:27:31,490
They almost tore us apart.

521
00:27:31,490 --> 00:27:33,420
They were so happy
to be with us that--

522
00:27:33,420 --> 00:27:36,570

523

00:27:36,570 --> 00:27:42,870
to them, a liberator was
someone sent from heaven.

524
00:27:42,870 --> 00:27:48,300
An American liberator was
God himself in their eyes.

525
00:27:48,300 --> 00:27:50,700
The prisoners you first
saw, who were they?

526
00:27:50,700 --> 00:27:51,580
The Russian POWs?

527
00:27:51,580 --> 00:27:52,080
No.

528
00:27:52,080 --> 00:27:52,580
Jews?

529
00:27:52,580 --> 00:27:54,870
We saw very few Jews.

530
00:27:54,870 --> 00:27:57,360
Very few-- there were
very few Jews in the camp,

531
00:27:57,360 --> 00:27:59,490
even though I found
a cousin there--

532
00:27:59,490 --> 00:28:00,570
very few.

533
00:28:00,570 --> 00:28:06,430
There were mainly French,
Lithuanians, Yugoslavs,

534
00:28:06,430 --> 00:28:11,250
a great number of Greeks.

535

00:28:11,250 --> 00:28:16,770

Out of the 3,000 or so that
still remained at the camp,

536

00:28:16,770 --> 00:28:22,280

I would say that
1,000 or so were

537

00:28:22,280 --> 00:28:28,030

Germans, political prisoners.

538

00:28:28,030 --> 00:28:31,390

Members of the White
Rose group, for example,

539

00:28:31,390 --> 00:28:33,570

were there in Flossenburg.

540

00:28:33,570 --> 00:28:35,210

What was the White Rose group?

541

00:28:35,210 --> 00:28:38,280

Can you explain that one?

542

00:28:38,280 --> 00:28:46,080

We knew about a
group of Germans,

543

00:28:46,080 --> 00:28:51,170

and we were told that we
could rely upon this group

544

00:28:51,170 --> 00:29:00,860

to some restricted purposes,
who were dedicated to destroying

545

00:29:00,860 --> 00:29:03,470

the Nazi form of government
and will cooperate

546

00:29:03,470 --> 00:29:07,190

with the American forces.

547

00:29:07,190 --> 00:29:10,850

We never saw-- never saw them
in action working for us.

548

00:29:10,850 --> 00:29:15,080

We always found them as
prisoners somewhere else.

549

00:29:15,080 --> 00:29:17,330

There's much to be written
about the White Rose group.

550

00:29:17,330 --> 00:29:23,600

They were decimated
as we understand it.

551

00:29:23,600 --> 00:29:28,520

As you came in, the men with
you, your commanders, yourself,

552

00:29:28,520 --> 00:29:32,660

do you recall your feelings
as you came into this camp?

553

00:29:32,660 --> 00:29:36,560

This is your first
exposure to the real thing.

554

00:29:36,560 --> 00:29:38,180

Can you remember that?

555

00:29:38,180 --> 00:29:38,740

Very well.

556

00:29:38,740 --> 00:29:43,870

557

00:29:43,870 --> 00:29:46,360

I don't know whether we
were emotional or not.

558

00:29:46,360 --> 00:29:49,090

We'd been inured
to a lot of this.

559
00:29:49,090 --> 00:29:56,860
I think the shock of the first
sight of humans in these camps

560
00:29:56,860 --> 00:29:58,690
is a blow.

561
00:29:58,690 --> 00:30:01,443
Thereafter, quick
recovery is required.

562
00:30:01,443 --> 00:30:02,860
And you've got to
require-- you've

563
00:30:02,860 --> 00:30:04,600
got to recover from that.

564
00:30:04,600 --> 00:30:06,490
Can't let it get to you.

565
00:30:06,490 --> 00:30:09,360
The stench that came out
of that camp is unbearable.

566
00:30:09,360 --> 00:30:12,010
It stays with you forever.

567
00:30:12,010 --> 00:30:14,100
There were no sanitary
facilities there at all.

568
00:30:14,100 --> 00:30:17,130

569
00:30:17,130 --> 00:30:20,830
In the evidence at
the subsequent trials,

570

00:30:20,830 --> 00:30:26,170
we have photographs of the
latrine facilities at the camp.

571
00:30:26,170 --> 00:30:32,410
And we show open pits
that will accommodate

572
00:30:32,410 --> 00:30:37,090
approximately 30 people, men
and women at the same time,

573
00:30:37,090 --> 00:30:42,770
for a camp at 3,000, the
only latrine facilities.

574
00:30:42,770 --> 00:30:47,890
We will show hospital
facilities consisting

575
00:30:47,890 --> 00:30:51,460
of a medicine
cabinet, a operating

576
00:30:51,460 --> 00:30:57,490
table, and various and
sundry tools for a camp

577
00:30:57,490 --> 00:31:00,370
servicing thousands and
thousands of people.

578
00:31:00,370 --> 00:31:06,970
Inadequate, everything
inadequate in the camp.

579
00:31:06,970 --> 00:31:15,250
Now, we can write reams,
we can talk endlessly

580
00:31:15,250 --> 00:31:18,660
about our reactions
to what we found.

581

00:31:18,660 --> 00:31:22,320

But we have to strike on--

582

00:31:22,320 --> 00:31:25,220

and we have to

dwelt on what struck

583

00:31:25,220 --> 00:31:27,710

us the very-- just as

you said, the very moment

584

00:31:27,710 --> 00:31:28,490

we hit the camp.

585

00:31:28,490 --> 00:31:33,770

The first thing that hit my mind

and that's stayed with me ever

586

00:31:33,770 --> 00:31:40,010

since was it was as

if a specter of death

587

00:31:40,010 --> 00:31:43,460

was floating through the air

and ready to strike us all.

588

00:31:43,460 --> 00:31:49,110

That's what-- and strangely

enough, that was in my mind.

589

00:31:49,110 --> 00:31:52,663

And the old man, Colonel

[? Matze ?] at dinner

590

00:31:52,663 --> 00:31:54,830

one evening said, you know

what struck me the moment

591

00:31:54,830 --> 00:31:55,655

we saw that camp?

592

00:31:55,655 --> 00:31:58,490

And he came out
with the same thing.

593
00:31:58,490 --> 00:31:59,990
He used the specter
of death phrase?

594
00:31:59,990 --> 00:32:01,700
Yeah.

595
00:32:01,700 --> 00:32:03,940
We don't know what's
going to happen.

596
00:32:03,940 --> 00:32:06,020
We envision that
we're walking away

597
00:32:06,020 --> 00:32:08,930
from there carrying all
kinds of diseases, plagues,

598
00:32:08,930 --> 00:32:11,180
and God knows what else.

599
00:32:11,180 --> 00:32:13,400
And remember, we circulated
among these people.

600
00:32:13,400 --> 00:32:16,660

601
00:32:16,660 --> 00:32:19,870
Was it your unit's
responsibility

602
00:32:19,870 --> 00:32:24,670
to make recommendations at
all on how to handle the newly

603
00:32:24,670 --> 00:32:26,380
freed newly liberated prisoners?

604

00:32:26,380 --> 00:32:27,490

No, sir.

605

00:32:27,490 --> 00:32:30,790

That was the responsibility
of the Commanding General

606

00:32:30,790 --> 00:32:32,770

of the 91st Infantry Division.

607

00:32:32,770 --> 00:32:36,760

Our mission was to
strictly, straight line,

608

00:32:36,760 --> 00:32:41,200

go after the perpetrators, round
up witnesses, collate evidence,

609

00:32:41,200 --> 00:32:44,390

present evidence of crimes
having been committed to be

610

00:32:44,390 --> 00:32:46,930

remanded towards the trial.

611

00:32:46,930 --> 00:32:51,490

And we took off after,
physically, through the woods,

612

00:32:51,490 --> 00:32:53,980

after the guards.

613

00:32:53,980 --> 00:32:56,410

When the death march
had terminated,

614

00:32:56,410 --> 00:33:00,760

once they killed everyone on
the death march and buried them,

615

00:33:00,760 --> 00:33:04,240

and they had finished their

grizzly chore, just a few hours

616
00:33:04,240 --> 00:33:07,360
before we came
upon them, so they

617
00:33:07,360 --> 00:33:10,720
were within an 8-mile
radius of Namerling.

618
00:33:10,720 --> 00:33:15,250
And there we caught Max Koegel,
the commandant of the camp.

619
00:33:15,250 --> 00:33:18,850
We call [? Hans Zudrup ?]
adjutant of the camp.

620
00:33:18,850 --> 00:33:23,990
We caught dozens and dozens and
dozens of them, high and small,

621
00:33:23,990 --> 00:33:27,340
including a number
of women guards,

622
00:33:27,340 --> 00:33:29,890
and a surprising number
of Ukrainian guards.

623
00:33:29,890 --> 00:33:32,500
They had a lot of
Ukrainians there.

624
00:33:32,500 --> 00:33:33,970
And these were SS?

625
00:33:33,970 --> 00:33:36,610
The Germans, at least were SS?

626
00:33:36,610 --> 00:33:40,150
Well, I don't think we had
one of the two or three

627
00:33:40,150 --> 00:33:42,400
Totenkopf SS there at all.

628
00:33:42,400 --> 00:33:43,990
We have some Waffen SS.

629
00:33:43,990 --> 00:33:48,040
Others were Wehrmacht.

630
00:33:48,040 --> 00:33:51,370
For our audience and the
tape, explain the difference

631
00:33:51,370 --> 00:33:53,920
between the Waffen
SS and the others

632
00:33:53,920 --> 00:33:55,810
that you had to deal with.

633
00:33:55,810 --> 00:33:59,770
The Waffen SS is a combat
unit, just like our infantry,

634
00:33:59,770 --> 00:34:02,980
but consisting of
so-called elite.

635
00:34:02,980 --> 00:34:04,255
You pass special examinations.

636
00:34:04,255 --> 00:34:07,570
You pass special
physical examinations.

637
00:34:07,570 --> 00:34:11,560
And up to a certain date in the
history of the German Reich,

638
00:34:11,560 --> 00:34:17,139
you volunteered to go

into the Waffen SS.

639

00:34:17,139 --> 00:34:19,989

After the attempt
on Hitler's life,

640

00:34:19,989 --> 00:34:23,560

and certainly after the
break out in Normandy,

641

00:34:23,560 --> 00:34:26,050

they began drafting
soldiers into the SS.

642

00:34:26,050 --> 00:34:28,780

643

00:34:28,780 --> 00:34:31,810

That was the Waffen SS.

644

00:34:31,810 --> 00:34:34,030

The judgment at
Nuremberg is that if you

645

00:34:34,030 --> 00:34:37,000

were a member of the Waffen
SS prior to that date,

646

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:41,440

you could ipso facto be
a declared war criminal.

647

00:34:41,440 --> 00:34:47,960

Then we have the Totenkopf
SS, concentration camp guards.

648

00:34:47,960 --> 00:34:51,500

Then we have the Allgemeine
SS, the standard bearers,

649

00:34:51,500 --> 00:34:54,050

Hitler's personal bodyguard.

650

00:34:54,050 --> 00:34:57,815

And we have the Standarten SS.

651

00:34:57,815 --> 00:35:00,770

652

00:35:00,770 --> 00:35:05,030

They were found in the
halls of the Reichstag

653

00:35:05,030 --> 00:35:08,090

in the black
uniforms, all giants,

654

00:35:08,090 --> 00:35:11,600

all mostly for show, all
wearing their little--

655

00:35:11,600 --> 00:35:14,763

cute little daggers and
all kinds of medals.

656

00:35:14,763 --> 00:35:17,180

We don't know of any major war
crimes that they committed,

657

00:35:17,180 --> 00:35:20,230

but they're declared
war criminals.

658

00:35:20,230 --> 00:35:23,630

And when you caught them,
and here you had this unit,

659

00:35:23,630 --> 00:35:25,580

you had come upon
the massacre, and you

660

00:35:25,580 --> 00:35:30,200

spent some time running to earth
those that you could catch.

661

00:35:30,200 --> 00:35:32,060

Can you describe that procedure?

662

00:35:32,060 --> 00:35:33,395

They were brought in?

663

00:35:33,395 --> 00:35:36,080

Well, we had a--

664

00:35:36,080 --> 00:35:40,400

we had set up an internment
center at 30 [PLACE NAME]

665

00:35:40,400 --> 00:35:46,550

in Nuremberg, basement of
our quarters, where we took

666

00:35:46,550 --> 00:35:51,590

turns, depending
upon how many we

667

00:35:51,590 --> 00:35:53,450

had there at one time--
we tried to avoid

668

00:35:53,450 --> 00:35:59,695

having more than two prisoners
there at any one time.

669

00:35:59,695 --> 00:36:01,760

If we had as many
as two, then we

670

00:36:01,760 --> 00:36:05,660

devoted the better part of
24 hours interrogating them.

671

00:36:05,660 --> 00:36:12,890

And making some type of
decision whether to throw them

672

00:36:12,890 --> 00:36:17,660

in a PW cage as

suspected war criminal

673

00:36:17,660 --> 00:36:21,650

or send them on down
to Dachau as a believed

674

00:36:21,650 --> 00:36:25,280

confirmed war criminal.

675

00:36:25,280 --> 00:36:29,840

We had that element
of responsibility.

676

00:36:29,840 --> 00:36:34,280

Those that were selected
as possible war criminals

677

00:36:34,280 --> 00:36:38,810

were put into a
major internment camp

678

00:36:38,810 --> 00:36:42,380

at Herzberg, Germany,
just outside of Nuremberg.

679

00:36:42,380 --> 00:36:46,010

And we had as many as
3,000-3,500 in there at one

680

00:36:46,010 --> 00:36:47,540

time.

681

00:36:47,540 --> 00:36:52,220

I have no doubts
that during the time

682

00:36:52,220 --> 00:36:55,580

we were in operation there,
we had prisoners in that camp,

683

00:36:55,580 --> 00:37:02,720

like Mengele, Barbie, Alois
Bruner, quite a few of them

684

00:37:02,720 --> 00:37:06,230
that are still at large and
sought for as war criminals.

685

00:37:06,230 --> 00:37:08,510
Men that you picked up
early on [BOTH TALKING]

686

00:37:08,510 --> 00:37:13,340
Men that we picked up early
on or other investigatory

687

00:37:13,340 --> 00:37:17,720
agencies, like the CIC or
Army Intelligence picked up.

688

00:37:17,720 --> 00:37:22,000
We all use the same
internment camp, you see.

689

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:26,170
We were responsible, I would
guess, for about 1,500 of them

690

00:37:26,170 --> 00:37:29,460
directly, but that
mostly guards out

691

00:37:29,460 --> 00:37:32,710
of Flossenburg, out of Dachau,
out of the various camps.

692

00:37:32,710 --> 00:37:36,100
You remember, our area of
jurisdiction was Bavaria.

693

00:37:36,100 --> 00:37:41,800
If a case was out of Hanover,
but the prisoners were,

694

00:37:41,800 --> 00:37:45,640
or the accused were in our area,

then we assumed jurisdiction

695

00:37:45,640 --> 00:37:47,000
over the accused.

696

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:49,690
We apprehended
him, kept him-- we

697

00:37:49,690 --> 00:37:52,650
confined him at Herzberg
or at [PLACE NAME]

698

00:37:52,650 --> 00:37:55,180
or the [PLACE NAME] in
Nuremberg or at Dachau,

699

00:37:55,180 --> 00:37:59,650
then released them to Hanover.

700

00:37:59,650 --> 00:38:01,780
During the process
of interrogation,

701

00:38:01,780 --> 00:38:07,420
was there a standard attitude
among those people being

702

00:38:07,420 --> 00:38:11,350
interrogated or did they all
respond in different ways

703

00:38:11,350 --> 00:38:12,550
to interrogation?

704

00:38:12,550 --> 00:38:15,280
Where some eager
to give testimony

705

00:38:15,280 --> 00:38:18,550
while others were defiant?

706

00:38:18,550 --> 00:38:20,980
They were not exactly defiant.

707
00:38:20,980 --> 00:38:25,240
Arrogant, yes, not defiant.

708
00:38:25,240 --> 00:38:29,110
They would gladly testify
against their neighbors.

709
00:38:29,110 --> 00:38:31,660
But they never--
very few of them

710
00:38:31,660 --> 00:38:34,990
that were under our
jurisdiction ever confessed

711
00:38:34,990 --> 00:38:38,980
to the commission of the crimes
that they were charged for.

712
00:38:38,980 --> 00:38:41,140
We had a tough job of proving.

713
00:38:41,140 --> 00:38:43,290
Did they claim knowing nothing?

714
00:38:43,290 --> 00:38:44,050
No.

715
00:38:44,050 --> 00:38:51,280
No, and the-- with
one notable exception.

716
00:38:51,280 --> 00:38:55,360
We had captured and we were
responsible for Joachim Peiper,

717
00:38:55,360 --> 00:38:58,000
who conducted the
Malmedy massacres.

718

00:38:58,000 --> 00:39:01,510

He readily admitted
it, but he denied

719

00:39:01,510 --> 00:39:03,700

that he committed a war crime.

720

00:39:03,700 --> 00:39:08,230

He says under war crime,
battle conditions,

721

00:39:08,230 --> 00:39:11,620

we're in wartime, in
direct combat conditions,

722

00:39:11,620 --> 00:39:15,700

impossible for us to physically
carry prisoners with us.

723

00:39:15,700 --> 00:39:17,410

We had no recourse.

724

00:39:17,410 --> 00:39:19,870

We must use our judgment.

725

00:39:19,870 --> 00:39:21,310

And we executed them.

726

00:39:21,310 --> 00:39:22,123

He admitted it.

727

00:39:22,123 --> 00:39:24,790

For our audience, would you just
give a little bit of background

728

00:39:24,790 --> 00:39:25,850

on Malmedy.

729

00:39:25,850 --> 00:39:29,410

This is Battle of the Bulge,
American troops involved.

730

00:39:29,410 --> 00:39:34,390

These troops,
American troops, were

731

00:39:34,390 --> 00:39:40,150

captured by German SS
units, mountain units,

732

00:39:40,150 --> 00:39:48,250

in December of 1944 during
the break out from the Argon

733

00:39:48,250 --> 00:39:49,510

forest--

734

00:39:49,510 --> 00:39:50,775

or to the Argon--

735

00:39:50,775 --> 00:39:51,507

The Arden forest?

736

00:39:51,507 --> 00:39:52,007

Right.

737

00:39:52,007 --> 00:39:54,610

738

00:39:54,610 --> 00:39:56,350

The Arden's break out.

739

00:39:56,350 --> 00:39:59,650

In the very first few days
of the so-called Battle

740

00:39:59,650 --> 00:40:03,220

of the Bulge, these
Americans were captured.

741

00:40:03,220 --> 00:40:06,580

There were approximately,
that we recall,

742

00:40:06,580 --> 00:40:11,650

25 or 30 captured in
one day by an SS unit

743

00:40:11,650 --> 00:40:16,195

commanded by Obersturmbannfuhrer
Joachim Peiper, SS.

744

00:40:16,195 --> 00:40:20,110

745

00:40:20,110 --> 00:40:23,650

They were a rapidly moving unit.

746

00:40:23,650 --> 00:40:26,245

They had been told before
they ever started out

747

00:40:26,245 --> 00:40:31,480

on their missions, which was
to harass the enemy, mainly us,

748

00:40:31,480 --> 00:40:35,200

they cannot take prisoners,
they are not to take prisoners.

749

00:40:35,200 --> 00:40:36,520

That much we believed.

750

00:40:36,520 --> 00:40:37,720

They showed us those orders.

751

00:40:37,720 --> 00:40:40,510

They could not take prisoners.

752

00:40:40,510 --> 00:40:44,650

And they didn't take prisoners,
they executed them, principally

753

00:40:44,650 --> 00:40:46,000

on the spot.

754

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:47,530

As to whether this unit--

755

00:40:47,530 --> 00:40:51,670

we tried to prove possibly that
this unit had committed more

756

00:40:51,670 --> 00:40:53,650

than the one atrocity.

757

00:40:53,650 --> 00:40:55,660

And we firmly believed
they did, but we have

758

00:40:55,660 --> 00:40:57,280

no evidentiary proof of that.

759

00:40:57,280 --> 00:41:00,820

760

00:41:00,820 --> 00:41:09,070

Colonel Piper did commit a
war crime in our judgment.

761

00:41:09,070 --> 00:41:11,800

He was a wanted war criminal.

762

00:41:11,800 --> 00:41:15,340

And he was captured
in November of 1945

763

00:41:15,340 --> 00:41:18,208

hiding out near Ansbach.

764

00:41:18,208 --> 00:41:19,952

And we kept him for two days.

765

00:41:19,952 --> 00:41:21,202

Then we brought him to Dachau.

766

00:41:21,202 --> 00:41:24,160

767

00:41:24,160 --> 00:41:26,350

He was tried.

768

00:41:26,350 --> 00:41:29,530

I believe he was eventually
turned over to the Germans

769

00:41:29,530 --> 00:41:30,160

and tried.

770

00:41:30,160 --> 00:41:31,120

Given 20 years.

771

00:41:31,120 --> 00:41:32,260

Served his 20 years.

772

00:41:32,260 --> 00:41:35,770

773

00:41:35,770 --> 00:41:38,620

I believe he pleaded
guilty, given

774

00:41:38,620 --> 00:41:40,270

20 years, served 20 years.

775

00:41:40,270 --> 00:41:42,880

776

00:41:42,880 --> 00:41:46,840

Moved to France,
married a French girl.

777

00:41:46,840 --> 00:41:48,850

Bought a little shop.

778

00:41:48,850 --> 00:41:51,640

Was subsequently
recognized by a member

779

00:41:51,640 --> 00:41:54,790
of the French underground,
not too long ago, maybe three,

780

00:41:54,790 --> 00:41:55,540
four years ago.

781

00:41:55,540 --> 00:41:56,860
Not too long ago.

782

00:41:56,860 --> 00:41:59,643
Who walked into his
shop and shot him dead.

783

00:41:59,643 --> 00:42:01,060
This was somebody
from the Maquis.

784

00:42:01,060 --> 00:42:02,740
Yeah, I believe so.

785

00:42:02,740 --> 00:42:05,290

786

00:42:05,290 --> 00:42:08,230
As your time went
on, you obviously

787

00:42:08,230 --> 00:42:12,040
had contact with a lot of
individuals like Piper.

788

00:42:12,040 --> 00:42:19,180
The duties you assumed
as the war ended

789

00:42:19,180 --> 00:42:22,210
and as it came time to bring
individuals, such as Piper

790

00:42:22,210 --> 00:42:24,940
and the camp personnel

of Flossenburg

791

00:42:24,940 --> 00:42:30,190
and other institutions to
justice, your duties then

792

00:42:30,190 --> 00:42:31,300
changed then, didn't they?

793

00:42:31,300 --> 00:42:35,530
You were assigned a peculiar--

794

00:42:35,530 --> 00:42:37,752
We're concave and convex.

795

00:42:37,752 --> 00:42:39,580
And could you go
into that for us?

796

00:42:39,580 --> 00:42:41,020
We're very flexible.

797

00:42:41,020 --> 00:42:45,280
Since our area of operations,
and I repeat again,

798

00:42:45,280 --> 00:42:47,890
was between Hof and the Danube.

799

00:42:47,890 --> 00:42:55,420
Therefore, when the Dachau war
criminals trial came to pass,

800

00:42:55,420 --> 00:42:58,810
as defense counsel they
had to pick someone

801

00:42:58,810 --> 00:43:00,550
from outside their
geographic area.

802

00:43:00,550 --> 00:43:01,540

And they picked on us.

803

00:43:01,540 --> 00:43:07,600

Our team in total was wrapped
up in the defense of the war

804

00:43:07,600 --> 00:43:12,070

crimes or the war
criminals of Dachau,

805

00:43:12,070 --> 00:43:14,380

from the commandant of
the camp right on down.

806

00:43:14,380 --> 00:43:18,340

807

00:43:18,340 --> 00:43:23,500

That kept us busy for
quite a few months.

808

00:43:23,500 --> 00:43:25,690

It was quite a show trial.

809

00:43:25,690 --> 00:43:29,560

I think it was more heavily
attended by visiting junketeers

810

00:43:29,560 --> 00:43:33,280

from the States than the major
war crimes trials going on

811

00:43:33,280 --> 00:43:34,000

in Nuremberg.

812

00:43:34,000 --> 00:43:35,680

Why was that?

813

00:43:35,680 --> 00:43:36,340

Hmm?

814

00:43:36,340 --> 00:43:37,060

Why was that?

815

00:43:37,060 --> 00:43:40,090

816

00:43:40,090 --> 00:43:42,130

The revelations
coming out of there,

817

00:43:42,130 --> 00:43:44,040

the atrocities at Dachau--

818

00:43:44,040 --> 00:43:46,560

Dachau seems to be--

819

00:43:46,560 --> 00:43:49,425

Auschwitz was a
relatively new word,

820

00:43:49,425 --> 00:43:57,520

and it was still a new word in
the annals of death in 1945.

821

00:43:57,520 --> 00:44:01,870

Dachau, the oldest of the
camps, was the epitome

822

00:44:01,870 --> 00:44:05,680

of what one can anticipate
finding at a concentration

823

00:44:05,680 --> 00:44:06,910

camp.

824

00:44:06,910 --> 00:44:09,530

And that's why I believe
they flocked to it.

825

00:44:09,530 --> 00:44:14,020

I know that after a while,
the bleachers in Nuremberg

826

00:44:14,020 --> 00:44:14,920
were half empty.

827
00:44:14,920 --> 00:44:19,690
And they were packed in Dachau.

828
00:44:19,690 --> 00:44:23,980
We had built an entire
building for these trials.

829
00:44:23,980 --> 00:44:27,220
Square that difference just
a little bit more for us.

830
00:44:27,220 --> 00:44:30,190
We have the trials
going on at Nuremberg.

831
00:44:30,190 --> 00:44:32,050
And we have the other
trials of everybody

832
00:44:32,050 --> 00:44:33,730
that was involved with Dachau.

833
00:44:33,730 --> 00:44:36,160
There was a level
of responsibility

834
00:44:36,160 --> 00:44:38,110
and of activity
that differentiated

835
00:44:38,110 --> 00:44:40,060
the two if I'm correct on this.

836
00:44:40,060 --> 00:44:40,870
Nuremberg was who?

837
00:44:40,870 --> 00:44:42,280
Dachau was who?

838

00:44:42,280 --> 00:44:45,290

Nuremberg were the
so-called major trials.

839

00:44:45,290 --> 00:44:48,100

That was the International
Military Tribunal

840

00:44:48,100 --> 00:44:50,990

of the major war criminals.

841

00:44:50,990 --> 00:44:55,270

The Goering, the Hess's, the von
Papen's the Ribbentrop's the,

842

00:44:55,270 --> 00:44:59,620

Rosenberg's the Baldur von
Schirach, and the rest of them,

843

00:44:59,620 --> 00:45:02,320

the Julius Streicher's.

844

00:45:02,320 --> 00:45:07,420

And this was your
government of the Reich.

845

00:45:07,420 --> 00:45:10,250

These were your founders
of the Nazi party.

846

00:45:10,250 --> 00:45:13,810

This was your major show trial.

847

00:45:13,810 --> 00:45:16,750

Collaterally, going
on at the same time,

848

00:45:16,750 --> 00:45:19,480

in different locations,
not only at Dachau,

849

00:45:19,480 --> 00:45:26,500

were lesser war crimes trials

of the actual perpetrators

850

00:45:26,500 --> 00:45:28,240

of these atrocities.

851

00:45:28,240 --> 00:45:32,290

Your concentration camp
guards, who the cases were

852

00:45:32,290 --> 00:45:34,480

relatively too small and too--

853

00:45:34,480 --> 00:45:37,780

and too many to fill the
dockets at Nuremberg.

854

00:45:37,780 --> 00:45:42,860

Nuremberg was set up just for
the one major series of trials.

855

00:45:42,860 --> 00:45:49,720

So that the less-- so-called
lesser trials were conducted

856

00:45:49,720 --> 00:45:56,090

by 3rd Army, and by 7th
Army, and by 5th Army,

857

00:45:56,090 --> 00:45:57,940

under their jurisdictions.

858

00:45:57,940 --> 00:46:00,670

But principally,
at Dachau, which

859

00:46:00,670 --> 00:46:06,590

was a major terminus for
witnesses and prisoners

860

00:46:06,590 --> 00:46:08,230

and interrogation center.

861

00:46:08,230 --> 00:46:11,470

862

00:46:11,470 --> 00:46:15,080

And at Dachau, while we
had a number of trials,

863

00:46:15,080 --> 00:46:17,500

the most notorious trial was
the trial of the Dachau war

864

00:46:17,500 --> 00:46:18,375

criminals themselves.

865

00:46:18,375 --> 00:46:22,780

Yeah, so just to clarify
this, if we can hypothesize

866

00:46:22,780 --> 00:46:25,930

for a moment, if
a Demjanjuk, say,

867

00:46:25,930 --> 00:46:28,360

had been brought
to trial in 1945,

868

00:46:28,360 --> 00:46:30,970

he would have been brought
to Dachau rather than

869

00:46:30,970 --> 00:46:33,820

to Nuremberg.

870

00:46:33,820 --> 00:46:40,060

If a Demjanjuk, and we had
many Demjanjuk's tried in 1945,

871

00:46:40,060 --> 00:46:44,350

they would have been thrown
in with some other group that

872

00:46:44,350 --> 00:46:47,980

came to the bar five minutes

after the last group came

873

00:46:47,980 --> 00:46:52,114
to the bar, and would have
been disposed of in one hour.

874

00:46:52,114 --> 00:46:56,720
We were grinding them out by
the hundreds, by the thousands.

875

00:46:56,720 --> 00:46:58,840
We needed the help of
the new German government

876

00:46:58,840 --> 00:47:03,690
at that time to take
over these cases.

877

00:47:03,690 --> 00:47:05,850
For you, it must have
been quite a feeling.

878

00:47:05,850 --> 00:47:10,500
You'd been there almost at
the liberation of one camp.

879

00:47:10,500 --> 00:47:13,650
And then from the south,
from Dachau, the jurisdiction

880

00:47:13,650 --> 00:47:15,210
in which Dachau
lay, you suddenly

881

00:47:15,210 --> 00:47:16,710
received word that
you were assigned

882

00:47:16,710 --> 00:47:19,063
to the defense of
the perpetrators who

883

00:47:19,063 --> 00:47:19,980

had done these things.

884

00:47:19,980 --> 00:47:22,740

I had one hell of a job
explaining that in letters

885

00:47:22,740 --> 00:47:25,130

back home.

886

00:47:25,130 --> 00:47:26,730

You had no lead
time on this at all.

887

00:47:26,730 --> 00:47:28,880

You just showed up,
and your orders?

888

00:47:28,880 --> 00:47:31,050

We received a phone call.

889

00:47:31,050 --> 00:47:32,760

If you fellas have
no objections.

890

00:47:32,760 --> 00:47:35,950

And when the general's voice
is on the other end, of course

891

00:47:35,950 --> 00:47:37,380

we have no objections.

892

00:47:37,380 --> 00:47:39,240

You've been assigned
as defense counsel.

893

00:47:39,240 --> 00:47:42,890

Orders are coming.

894

00:47:42,890 --> 00:47:44,940

Which general's voice are
we talking about here?

895

00:47:44,940 --> 00:47:47,510
Is this 5th Army?

896
00:47:47,510 --> 00:47:51,470
This would be-- no, no, this
would be General Truscott.

897
00:47:51,470 --> 00:47:53,120
General Truscott.

898
00:47:53,120 --> 00:47:55,850
Lucian Truscott, who was then
Commanding General of 3rd Army.

899
00:47:55,850 --> 00:47:57,130
A major individual.

900
00:47:57,130 --> 00:47:59,823
Yeah.

901
00:47:59,823 --> 00:48:00,490
Were there any--

902
00:48:00,490 --> 00:48:01,360
It was up and away then.

903
00:48:01,360 --> 00:48:02,230
You were uprooted.

904
00:48:02,230 --> 00:48:04,630
And how many of you?

905
00:48:04,630 --> 00:48:05,320
The entire team.

906
00:48:05,320 --> 00:48:07,000
The entire team.

907
00:48:07,000 --> 00:48:08,920
And would you
believe, we carried

908

00:48:08,920 --> 00:48:12,400

on this mission in addition
to our other duties.

909

00:48:12,400 --> 00:48:13,645

We still continued--

910

00:48:13,645 --> 00:48:16,090

You continued to investigate
for your own jurisdiction.

911

00:48:16,090 --> 00:48:19,380

We were working day
and night at that time.

912

00:48:19,380 --> 00:48:22,450

As I believe I explained
to you, perhaps

913

00:48:22,450 --> 00:48:26,980

we should discuss it here,
the famous Thanksgiving dinner

914

00:48:26,980 --> 00:48:29,296

that we had in Nuremberg.

915

00:48:29,296 --> 00:48:34,210

We were working around the
clock then and also entertaining

916

00:48:34,210 --> 00:48:36,430

VIPs.

917

00:48:36,430 --> 00:48:41,890

At the time, we brought
Peiper to Dachau,

918

00:48:41,890 --> 00:48:45,310

we had in the front
seat, keeping US company,

919

00:48:45,310 --> 00:48:48,970

with Peiper handcuffed to the back of the seat, United States

920
00:48:48,970 --> 00:48:51,760
Senator Claude Pepper,
was on a little trip

921
00:48:51,760 --> 00:48:55,630
from the States, who wanted
to bypass the big trials

922
00:48:55,630 --> 00:48:57,010
in Nuremberg with them.

923
00:48:57,010 --> 00:48:59,045
He wanted to see what
we were doing in Dachau.

924
00:48:59,045 --> 00:49:01,300
He heard lots of
things about our trial.

925
00:49:01,300 --> 00:49:03,115
It was great.

926
00:49:03,115 --> 00:49:06,970
So Claude Pepper and Peiper.

927
00:49:06,970 --> 00:49:08,560
That was the Pepper-Peiper show.

928
00:49:08,560 --> 00:49:12,520

929
00:49:12,520 --> 00:49:18,580
Can you tell us any particularly
outstanding memories you have

930
00:49:18,580 --> 00:49:22,060
of the Dachau cases?

931
00:49:22,060 --> 00:49:24,370

Not very pleasant.

932
00:49:24,370 --> 00:49:26,860
All sorted.

933
00:49:26,860 --> 00:49:28,690
All the allegations
I think were true.

934
00:49:28,690 --> 00:49:31,820

935
00:49:31,820 --> 00:49:37,820
Every person-- you got to
know these people pretty well.

936
00:49:37,820 --> 00:49:39,950
You're interrogating them.

937
00:49:39,950 --> 00:49:41,480
You're cajoling them.

938
00:49:41,480 --> 00:49:44,180
You're asking them to
cooperate because we're

939
00:49:44,180 --> 00:49:45,725
trying to protect their lives.

940
00:49:45,725 --> 00:49:48,510

941
00:49:48,510 --> 00:49:50,760
And I must back up a little bit.

942
00:49:50,760 --> 00:49:54,330
Our function, we've
been asked, in fact,

943
00:49:54,330 --> 00:49:59,780
we've been accused of accepting
this role for one purpose only,

944
00:49:59,780 --> 00:50:01,450
to be sure that
they were convicted.

945
00:50:01,450 --> 00:50:05,330
Your neo-Nazis in
Germany today are

946
00:50:05,330 --> 00:50:06,770
printing that in newspapers.

947
00:50:06,770 --> 00:50:09,980
In fact, we are named
in the press over there.

948
00:50:09,980 --> 00:50:11,520
That it was a kangaroo court?

949
00:50:11,520 --> 00:50:12,830
Yes.

950
00:50:12,830 --> 00:50:18,950
And I even hate to remind
myself of the experiences we

951
00:50:18,950 --> 00:50:21,200
went through back at that time.

952
00:50:21,200 --> 00:50:23,180
We not only were
warned, but we didn't

953
00:50:23,180 --> 00:50:27,680
have to be warned to be cautious
in providing the best possible

954
00:50:27,680 --> 00:50:29,000
defense for these people.

955
00:50:29,000 --> 00:50:32,510
Consider them as if they

were your fellow Americans.

956

00:50:32,510 --> 00:50:38,600

Your job is not to lie for
them or to lie to them.

957

00:50:38,600 --> 00:50:42,950

Your job is to be sure that
the prosecution fairly presents

958

00:50:42,950 --> 00:50:45,110

a probative case against them.

959

00:50:45,110 --> 00:50:47,180

And that we made sure of.

960

00:50:47,180 --> 00:50:49,220

How were they as defendants?

961

00:50:49,220 --> 00:50:51,650

Did they come to
trust you as counsel?

962

00:50:51,650 --> 00:50:53,800

Did they open up at all?

963

00:50:53,800 --> 00:51:00,020

Well, strangely enough, I
got along well with them,

964

00:51:00,020 --> 00:51:02,137

particularly when they
found out I was Jewish.

965

00:51:02,137 --> 00:51:03,470

I was the only Jew in the group.

966

00:51:03,470 --> 00:51:07,130

967

00:51:07,130 --> 00:51:09,200

I got along well with

them, particularly

968
00:51:09,200 --> 00:51:11,240
with Dr. Schilling.

969
00:51:11,240 --> 00:51:12,590
And I hate to say this.

970
00:51:12,590 --> 00:51:14,390
I had a lot of
admiration for him.

971
00:51:14,390 --> 00:51:19,550
We called him Buffalo Bill,
with the little goatee.

972
00:51:19,550 --> 00:51:21,920
I begrudgingly must say
I had some admiration

973
00:51:21,920 --> 00:51:26,960
for the commandant of the
camp, Martin Gottfried Weiss,

974
00:51:26,960 --> 00:51:31,310
only because he was
an efficient machine.

975
00:51:31,310 --> 00:51:35,180
Other than that, he was a
reprehensible individual.

976
00:51:35,180 --> 00:51:38,580
But they talked to us.

977
00:51:38,580 --> 00:51:40,670
I think they were
honest with us,

978
00:51:40,670 --> 00:51:44,930
except when it came to
the personal culpability.

979

00:51:44,930 --> 00:51:49,820

And there, they wouldn't
necessarily lie,

980

00:51:49,820 --> 00:51:54,330

they'd just deny or
remain obstinate.

981

00:51:54,330 --> 00:51:57,150

Did any of them try to
lay blame on others?

982

00:51:57,150 --> 00:51:59,610

Oh, yes, oh yes.

983

00:51:59,610 --> 00:52:01,800

They pointed fingers
all over the lot.

984

00:52:01,800 --> 00:52:03,300

That's one thing
the German will do.

985

00:52:03,300 --> 00:52:04,706

At their own cohorts?

986

00:52:04,706 --> 00:52:06,940

Yeah.

987

00:52:06,940 --> 00:52:09,910

Except, of course,
for Dr. Schilling.

988

00:52:09,910 --> 00:52:11,980

I say I did admire him.

989

00:52:11,980 --> 00:52:15,310

He's the fellow that conducted
these malaria experiments.

990

00:52:15,310 --> 00:52:17,740

And we read about--

991
00:52:17,740 --> 00:52:20,920
we actually saw
reenacted at the trials,

992
00:52:20,920 --> 00:52:29,740
where he would immerse a person
in buckets of ice, ice water,

993
00:52:29,740 --> 00:52:32,680
till his temperature was
down to 94, 95 degrees,

994
00:52:32,680 --> 00:52:36,047
almost till it killed him.

995
00:52:36,047 --> 00:52:37,630
Bring him out of the
water and put him

996
00:52:37,630 --> 00:52:40,120
between two naked women.

997
00:52:40,120 --> 00:52:43,180
And we're proving that that
may be a very effective way

998
00:52:43,180 --> 00:52:44,890
of resuscitation.

999
00:52:44,890 --> 00:52:48,300
Go use that.

1000
00:52:48,300 --> 00:52:53,520
And this was before the
war, a trained doctor

1001
00:52:53,520 --> 00:52:56,610
of professional standing.

1002
00:52:56,610 --> 00:53:01,860
Dr. Schilling was a

world-renowned scientist.

1003

00:53:01,860 --> 00:53:04,200

You've heard of the so-called
Schilling experiments

1004

00:53:04,200 --> 00:53:06,335

before the war.

1005

00:53:06,335 --> 00:53:08,460

And I think this is important
to put on the record,

1006

00:53:08,460 --> 00:53:10,350

that he had the
standing before his war.

1007

00:53:10,350 --> 00:53:10,560

Yes.

1008

00:53:10,560 --> 00:53:12,477

And yet, with his training,
with his standing,

1009

00:53:12,477 --> 00:53:15,595

this is how he used it when
he had the opportunity.

1010

00:53:15,595 --> 00:53:18,450

1011

00:53:18,450 --> 00:53:21,990

Of the cases that you
defended-- and by the way,

1012

00:53:21,990 --> 00:53:23,922

approximately how many
cases were involved?

1013

00:53:23,922 --> 00:53:25,380

How many are we
talking about here?

1014

00:53:25,380 --> 00:53:26,490

That we defended?

1015

00:53:26,490 --> 00:53:27,510

Just the one.

1016

00:53:27,510 --> 00:53:28,178

Just one.

1017

00:53:28,178 --> 00:53:33,120

23 of them, I believe,
on the docket.

1018

00:53:33,120 --> 00:53:36,600

And how long did the case last?

1019

00:53:36,600 --> 00:53:45,630

From September, late
September of '45

1020

00:53:45,630 --> 00:53:49,888

until November, I believe.

1021

00:53:49,888 --> 00:53:51,930

And prior to that, you'd
been gathering evidence.

1022

00:53:51,930 --> 00:53:54,450

They were sentenced.

1023

00:53:54,450 --> 00:53:57,330

Judgment came down in November
and they were executed

1024

00:53:57,330 --> 00:53:59,400

in January and February of '46.

1025

00:53:59,400 --> 00:54:01,610

Virtually all guilty then?

1026

00:54:01,610 --> 00:54:02,700

All but three.

1027

00:54:02,700 --> 00:54:04,600

All but three.

1028

00:54:04,600 --> 00:54:05,920

And they were executed.

1029

00:54:05,920 --> 00:54:07,588

In Landsberg.

1030

00:54:07,588 --> 00:54:11,580

1031

00:54:11,580 --> 00:54:19,770

With the progress of the
trials, as they went on,

1032

00:54:19,770 --> 00:54:25,470

what was your interaction
with your colleagues

1033

00:54:25,470 --> 00:54:27,240

in the American military?

1034

00:54:27,240 --> 00:54:30,070

How did they react knowing that
you were part of the team--

1035

00:54:30,070 --> 00:54:32,070

or to your team generally,
knowing that you were

1036

00:54:32,070 --> 00:54:34,650

the team--

1037

00:54:34,650 --> 00:54:37,590

You're referring to
colleagues in other branches

1038

00:54:37,590 --> 00:54:39,990

of the service?

1039
00:54:39,990 --> 00:54:46,780
Or among our
investigatory personnel?

1040
00:54:46,780 --> 00:54:48,640
So there was no--

1041
00:54:48,640 --> 00:54:50,740
I mean, are you
referring-- you asked

1042
00:54:50,740 --> 00:54:55,556
what was the reaction among
my colleagues in the military.

1043
00:54:55,556 --> 00:54:57,010
The military, correct.

1044
00:54:57,010 --> 00:54:58,250
OK.

1045
00:54:58,250 --> 00:55:01,540
Was this strictly a job
in their point of view?

1046
00:55:01,540 --> 00:55:02,830
To us it was a job.

1047
00:55:02,830 --> 00:55:05,800
Would I have ever volunteered
for this kind of work?

1048
00:55:05,800 --> 00:55:06,670
I doubt it.

1049
00:55:06,670 --> 00:55:09,370

1050
00:55:09,370 --> 00:55:13,878
If nobody else wanted
it, I would take it on.

1051
00:55:13,878 --> 00:55:18,320
But I had no idea of the
enormity and the sense

1052
00:55:18,320 --> 00:55:21,770
of what we would uncover there.

1053
00:55:21,770 --> 00:55:24,470
What was fact,
fiction, and fantasy

1054
00:55:24,470 --> 00:55:29,100
suddenly became real
right in front of us.

1055
00:55:29,100 --> 00:55:33,140
And I think that
those of us that

1056
00:55:33,140 --> 00:55:40,032
were on that side of the fence,
as opposed to the survivors,

1057
00:55:40,032 --> 00:55:43,130
and our heart goes
out to the survivors,

1058
00:55:43,130 --> 00:55:46,100
I think we'll continue
to be the living proof

1059
00:55:46,100 --> 00:55:50,650
that the Holocaust did occur.

1060
00:55:50,650 --> 00:55:53,140
We're coming near the
end of our first hour.

1061
00:55:53,140 --> 00:55:55,583
And perhaps it's time to ask--

1062

00:55:55,583 --> 00:55:57,250
it's almost a loaded
question, but there

1063
00:55:57,250 --> 00:56:01,270
is, not just in
the United States,

1064
00:56:01,270 --> 00:56:03,130
more perhaps in
Western Europe today,

1065
00:56:03,130 --> 00:56:06,520
a revisionist historical school.

1066
00:56:06,520 --> 00:56:10,210
I suppose to say school gives
it too much of an organization.

1067
00:56:10,210 --> 00:56:11,440
It's still a bit loose.

1068
00:56:11,440 --> 00:56:14,650
But a school that says that--

1069
00:56:14,650 --> 00:56:17,500
well, on the extreme right, that
the Holocaust never happened.

1070
00:56:17,500 --> 00:56:20,380
But getting closer to the center
of the revisionist's school,

1071
00:56:20,380 --> 00:56:24,820
that the Holocaust and
events associated with it

1072
00:56:24,820 --> 00:56:29,560
have been grossly exaggerated
for partisan purposes.

1073
00:56:29,560 --> 00:56:33,560
There has been a certain

amount of, if not credence,

1074
00:56:33,560 --> 00:56:36,700
at least interest in
some of the scholarship--

1075
00:56:36,700 --> 00:56:39,040
and I use that term with
in quotes in this context--

1076
00:56:39,040 --> 00:56:41,260
some of that scholarship.

1077
00:56:41,260 --> 00:56:46,000
Based upon what you saw, based
upon what your team became

1078
00:56:46,000 --> 00:56:52,540
involved with, is it possible
that anyone can conceivably

1079
00:56:52,540 --> 00:56:55,390
build a case for saying
that what has happened

1080
00:56:55,390 --> 00:56:57,730
has been exaggerated?

1081
00:56:57,730 --> 00:57:05,070
I'm sure it's conceivable
and if we don't have forums,

1082
00:57:05,070 --> 00:57:08,070
meetings such we're having
right now, it will happen.

1083
00:57:08,070 --> 00:57:10,050
I feel compelled to--

1084
00:57:10,050 --> 00:57:12,863
I don't like sitting under
these hot lights, but I think

1085

00:57:12,863 --> 00:57:13,530

I'm performing--

1086

00:57:13,530 --> 00:57:14,730

Neither do we.

1087

00:57:14,730 --> 00:57:17,610

I think I'm performing
a useful mission.

1088

00:57:17,610 --> 00:57:19,980

I think the story
has to be told.

1089

00:57:19,980 --> 00:57:22,380

And I'll continue telling
it as long as I'm able to.

1090

00:57:22,380 --> 00:57:24,930

1091

00:57:24,930 --> 00:57:25,800

It's important.

1092

00:57:25,800 --> 00:57:28,590

We go back to our
days when we were

1093

00:57:28,590 --> 00:57:30,390

studying Gulliver's Travels.

1094

00:57:30,390 --> 00:57:32,340

And we know that
it happened before.

1095

00:57:32,340 --> 00:57:36,240

And it's going to happen
again if we let it happen.

1096

00:57:36,240 --> 00:57:41,860

And as far as these
revisionists are concerned,

1097
00:57:41,860 --> 00:57:46,980
we can answer them
only with the truth

1098
00:57:46,980 --> 00:57:50,130
and with proof these
things had happened.

1099
00:57:50,130 --> 00:57:54,090
Now, with the truth
and with proof,

1100
00:57:54,090 --> 00:57:58,050
our biggest battle
comes with a third party

1101
00:57:58,050 --> 00:58:00,240
who has to evaluate
between what we're saying

1102
00:58:00,240 --> 00:58:02,680
and what revisionists
are saying.

1103
00:58:02,680 --> 00:58:06,900
And are we telling a
more compelling story

1104
00:58:06,900 --> 00:58:07,920
or are they telling it?

1105
00:58:07,920 --> 00:58:09,780
And that's the battle
we're going to have.

1106
00:58:09,780 --> 00:58:11,700
And that's why we've
got to be working

1107
00:58:11,700 --> 00:58:13,860
with the young continuously.

1108

00:58:13,860 --> 00:58:16,630

We have to pause
for a few moments.

1109

00:58:16,630 --> 00:58:18,660

Thank you, sir.

1110

00:58:18,660 --> 00:58:21,298