

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:18,650

2  
00:00:18,650 --> 00:00:21,710  
We're continuing our discussion  
with Mr. Victor Wegard.

3  
00:00:21,710 --> 00:00:25,580  
Mr. Wegard, in your experience  
both as an investigator

4  
00:00:25,580 --> 00:00:30,290  
of Nazi war crimes,  
and later on as part

5  
00:00:30,290 --> 00:00:33,670  
of the defense team for a  
number of those accused,

6  
00:00:33,670 --> 00:00:36,200  
there must have been a number  
of cases along the way that

7  
00:00:36,200 --> 00:00:38,750  
stand out as particularly  
striking or particularly

8  
00:00:38,750 --> 00:00:40,940  
frustrating.

9  
00:00:40,940 --> 00:00:42,740  
Do one or two of  
these spring to mind?

10  
00:00:42,740 --> 00:00:45,350

11  
00:00:45,350 --> 00:00:53,180  
Well, I think every  
case that we handled,

12  
00:00:53,180 --> 00:00:59,150  
and we were able  
successfully close the file,

13  
00:00:59,150 --> 00:01:04,190  
and put away for the  
future was successful.

14  
00:01:04,190 --> 00:01:06,380  
The frustrating ones  
do stay in the mind,

15  
00:01:06,380 --> 00:01:12,480  
and they're really too  
many of them to numerate.

16  
00:01:12,480 --> 00:01:16,120  
But each one of  
them is important.

17  
00:01:16,120 --> 00:01:20,910  
And one in particular  
stands out to this day

18  
00:01:20,910 --> 00:01:23,190  
as a total miscarriage,  
in my opinion,

19  
00:01:23,190 --> 00:01:28,320  
of justice on the part of our  
own United States government.

20  
00:01:28,320 --> 00:01:32,280  
That sometimes I'm  
ashamed to admit

21  
00:01:32,280 --> 00:01:39,450  
that I've spent all my life,  
and those of my compatriots,

22  
00:01:39,450 --> 00:01:43,410  
in the service defending our  
country and our American way

23  
00:01:43,410 --> 00:01:45,300  
of doing things.

24  
00:01:45,300 --> 00:01:49,890  
And see decisions made by

some levels of government

25

00:01:49,890 --> 00:01:52,620  
that are anathema  
to the American way,

26

00:01:52,620 --> 00:02:01,950  
the American awareness of things  
in life, the American fair play

27

00:02:01,950 --> 00:02:03,460  
criteria.

28

00:02:03,460 --> 00:02:15,490  
For example, in August 11,  
12, and 13, and 14 of 1941,

29

00:02:15,490 --> 00:02:20,640  
the Germans very methodically,  
very systematically,

30

00:02:20,640 --> 00:02:26,670  
massacred 44,000 Jews  
in the Polish Ukraine

31

00:02:26,670 --> 00:02:28,380  
in a town called Kowel.

32

00:02:28,380 --> 00:02:40,490  
K-O-W-E-L. This town and  
the 44,000 people was deeply

33

00:02:40,490 --> 00:02:45,110  
involved in the Luftwaffe  
program of building

34

00:02:45,110 --> 00:02:52,680  
fast-forward airstrips in  
support of the Wehrmacht

35

00:02:52,680 --> 00:02:57,900  
and its plunge into Russia,  
approximately 50 to 150 miles

36

00:02:57,900 --> 00:03:02,580

behind the then  
fluid front lines.

37  
00:03:02,580 --> 00:03:11,460  
And as won't be the  
case, the officer--

38  
00:03:11,460 --> 00:03:15,750  
in many instances, a civilian  
in charge of the project--

39  
00:03:15,750 --> 00:03:18,300  
would receive  
orders from up above

40  
00:03:18,300 --> 00:03:20,910  
to move on to the next project.

41  
00:03:20,910 --> 00:03:22,740  
Nothing further said or done.

42  
00:03:22,740 --> 00:03:25,090  
Move on to the next project.

43  
00:03:25,090 --> 00:03:28,020  
However, eliminate any  
vestige of cooperation

44  
00:03:28,020 --> 00:03:30,330  
by the inhabitants  
in the previous one.

45  
00:03:30,330 --> 00:03:34,260  
In other words, exterminate  
all the slave laborers

46  
00:03:34,260 --> 00:03:36,310  
that worked on that project.

47  
00:03:36,310 --> 00:03:43,890  
Orders came down for the  
SS to eliminate 44,000 Jews

48  
00:03:43,890 --> 00:03:45,810  
in Polish Ukraine.

49  
00:03:45,810 --> 00:03:50,700  
I vaguely remember  
this when it happened.

50  
00:03:50,700 --> 00:03:53,610  
There were some rumors in  
the newspapers of massacres

51  
00:03:53,610 --> 00:03:56,880  
going on in the Ukraine.

52  
00:03:56,880 --> 00:04:00,530  
In fact, the name  
Kowel struck to mind.

53  
00:04:00,530 --> 00:04:03,600  
And remember we were not at  
all even remotely involved

54  
00:04:03,600 --> 00:04:06,170  
in war crime activities  
at that time.

55  
00:04:06,170 --> 00:04:10,740  
But it was an event that  
seemed to shake the world

56  
00:04:10,740 --> 00:04:12,340  
in mammoth proportions.

57  
00:04:12,340 --> 00:04:15,810  
44,000 in just a  
few days massacred.

58  
00:04:15,810 --> 00:04:23,310  
So that in 1945, in the  
late spring of 1945,

59  
00:04:23,310 --> 00:04:28,140  
when one of our informants,  
probably Simon Wiesenthal,

60  
00:04:28,140 --> 00:04:32,610  
brought to our attention

that the chief perpetrator

61  
00:04:32,610 --> 00:04:38,310  
of the Kowel massacre of  
1941 was alive and well.

62  
00:04:38,310 --> 00:04:41,850  
And recently released from our  
internment camp at Hirschberg,

63  
00:04:41,850 --> 00:04:47,880  
and living at home  
in Bamberg, Germany.

64  
00:04:47,880 --> 00:04:53,310  
We received permission--  
with that type of a case

65  
00:04:53,310 --> 00:04:56,840  
where some mass atrocity,  
we received permission

66  
00:04:56,840 --> 00:04:58,700  
to go further.

67  
00:04:58,700 --> 00:05:02,480  
While we were, by  
order of priority,

68  
00:05:02,480 --> 00:05:06,830  
concentrating more on cases  
involving military personnel

69  
00:05:06,830 --> 00:05:09,980  
as opposed to strictly  
civilian personnel,

70  
00:05:09,980 --> 00:05:14,330  
we were still permitted to take  
on any crimes against humanity

71  
00:05:14,330 --> 00:05:15,410  
cases.

72  
00:05:15,410 --> 00:05:17,215

Atrocities, wherever  
they showed up--

73

00:05:17,215 --> 00:05:20,030  
an atrocity was an atrocity--

74

00:05:20,030 --> 00:05:24,110  
in addition to war crimes  
cases [? that popped up ?]..

75

00:05:24,110 --> 00:05:26,630  
This was certainly both.

76

00:05:26,630 --> 00:05:29,330  
The war crimes, even  
though it didn't

77

00:05:29,330 --> 00:05:33,140  
involve American  
military forces or even

78

00:05:33,140 --> 00:05:38,090  
allied military forces, and  
definitely, an atrocity case.

79

00:05:38,090 --> 00:05:42,890  
We captured Andreas Müller,  
the engineer in charge of that

80

00:05:42,890 --> 00:05:47,780  
project, at his home  
in Bamberg in 1945,

81

00:05:47,780 --> 00:05:50,690  
in the late spring of '45.

82

00:05:50,690 --> 00:05:54,290  
Brought him to the Lennéstrasse  
in Nuremberg that day,

83

00:05:54,290 --> 00:05:57,290  
and he tried to commit  
suicide on us that night.

84

00:05:57,290 --> 00:06:00,610

85

00:06:00,610 --> 00:06:04,350

He was very cooperative with subsequent interrogation.

86

00:06:04,350 --> 00:06:09,160

He acknowledged the orders that came from up above, which

87

00:06:09,160 --> 00:06:12,170

were now part of the main trials going on

88

00:06:12,170 --> 00:06:15,830

in Nuremberg, and particularly in the case against Goering.

89

00:06:15,830 --> 00:06:19,430

Orders came from the Luftwaffe to exterminate these towns,

90

00:06:19,430 --> 00:06:22,280

and Kowel was just one of them.

91

00:06:22,280 --> 00:06:23,990

At the main trial in Nuremberg, they

92

00:06:23,990 --> 00:06:28,920

were talking about dozens of towns, hundreds of thousands

93

00:06:28,920 --> 00:06:31,680

of people exterminated.

94

00:06:31,680 --> 00:06:34,515

But this one little town, this one little case

95

00:06:34,515 --> 00:06:37,380

seemed to appeal to us completely.

96

00:06:37,380 --> 00:06:40,740

Primarily because we had  
the principal perpetrator

97  
00:06:40,740 --> 00:06:43,350  
right in our grasp.

98  
00:06:43,350 --> 00:06:46,560  
We developed the  
case against Müller.

99  
00:06:46,560 --> 00:06:53,040  
We could find only two or three  
other possible perpetrators

100  
00:06:53,040 --> 00:06:56,195  
involved, but we knew we had  
a weak case against them.

101  
00:06:56,195 --> 00:06:58,320  
We had a strong case against  
Müller because we flew

102  
00:06:58,320 --> 00:07:02,010  
to the Ukraine, we picked  
up seven live witnesses,

103  
00:07:02,010 --> 00:07:07,320  
flew them back to Dachau  
to the witness center.

104  
00:07:07,320 --> 00:07:08,460  
They were going to testify.

105  
00:07:08,460 --> 00:07:11,550  
They saw him not only  
in existence there

106  
00:07:11,550 --> 00:07:16,805  
every single day, and giving  
orders to build the strip,

107  
00:07:16,805 --> 00:07:21,300  
and orders to his troops to  
begin firing on the villages,

108

00:07:21,300 --> 00:07:24,540  
but actually deliver coup  
de grace walking around.

109  
00:07:24,540 --> 00:07:28,170  
One of those that may still  
be swearing, shooting.

110  
00:07:28,170 --> 00:07:30,600  
Müller was a fierce  
looking individual.

111  
00:07:30,600 --> 00:07:34,590  
He was a Junker, a  
brilliant engineer,

112  
00:07:34,590 --> 00:07:37,320  
came from a long  
line of engineers.

113  
00:07:37,320 --> 00:07:41,340  
He had fierce Heidelberg  
dueling scars on his face,

114  
00:07:41,340 --> 00:07:44,042  
and he was much respected  
among his peers.

115  
00:07:44,042 --> 00:07:45,750  
So he would have been  
what was considered

116  
00:07:45,750 --> 00:07:46,950  
an aristocrat among--

117  
00:07:46,950 --> 00:07:50,550  
He was an aristocrat.

118  
00:07:50,550 --> 00:07:53,650  
Number of times, he  
tried to commit suicide.

119  
00:07:53,650 --> 00:07:57,540  
He tried to commit suicide in  
the Lennéstrasse in Nuremberg,

120

00:07:57,540 --> 00:07:58,920  
twice at Dachau.

121

00:07:58,920 --> 00:08:00,930  
We had him down there.

122

00:08:00,930 --> 00:08:05,580  
We brought him back to  
Nuremberg, tried again.

123

00:08:05,580 --> 00:08:09,930  
Yet, he would  
never plead guilty.

124

00:08:09,930 --> 00:08:14,490  
Only that because he was  
ordered to do what he did.

125

00:08:14,490 --> 00:08:17,430  
He acknowledged everything  
that he was accused of doing.

126

00:08:17,430 --> 00:08:20,700  
How do you plead not guilty?

127

00:08:20,700 --> 00:08:23,280  
There's your psyche.

128

00:08:23,280 --> 00:08:30,890  
We remanded the case to  
Wiesbaden, the theater war

129

00:08:30,890 --> 00:08:34,610  
crimes judge advocate  
section, for trial

130

00:08:34,610 --> 00:08:37,059  
and it was scheduled  
to go on in Dachau.

131

00:08:37,059 --> 00:08:39,799

132

00:08:39,799 --> 00:08:43,460

The very week that we  
remanded it to trial,

133  
00:08:43,460 --> 00:08:48,470  
we received wired instructions  
from Washington signed,

134  
00:08:48,470 --> 00:08:52,400  
"we understand Stettinius,  
secretary of state,

135  
00:08:52,400 --> 00:08:56,390  
to drop the action  
against Andreas Müller."

136  
00:08:56,390 --> 00:09:00,260  
Dropped the case,  
released the man,

137  
00:09:00,260 --> 00:09:03,410  
and as we subsequently  
found out, we needed him.

138  
00:09:03,410 --> 00:09:07,250  
We Americans needed him to  
build up our own airfields

139  
00:09:07,250 --> 00:09:07,940  
in Germany.

140  
00:09:07,940 --> 00:09:10,460  
The Iron Curtain  
was then falling.

141  
00:09:10,460 --> 00:09:15,290  
And he was instrumental in  
building up Fürstenfeldbruck

142  
00:09:15,290 --> 00:09:17,420  
in Bavaria.

143  
00:09:17,420 --> 00:09:24,460  
He died in bed a very  
wealthy man in 1961.

144

00:09:24,460 --> 00:09:27,210  
There's a case unfinished.

145  
00:09:27,210 --> 00:09:29,180  
To us, it's frustrating.

146  
00:09:29,180 --> 00:09:31,900  
We had the evidence  
against the man.

147  
00:09:31,900 --> 00:09:34,990  
He personally killed  
several of these people.

148  
00:09:34,990 --> 00:09:40,120  
He's got the blood of  
44,000 others on his hands,

149  
00:09:40,120 --> 00:09:45,080  
permitted to live out  
his life peacefully.

150  
00:09:45,080 --> 00:09:48,000  
So in this case,  
there wasn't even

151  
00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:53,000  
the covert action that has been  
attributed to bringing Nazi war

152  
00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:56,810  
criminals to freedom in order  
to fight communism, so to speak.

153  
00:09:56,810 --> 00:09:59,690  
This was a case where at the  
highest levels of government,

154  
00:09:59,690 --> 00:10:03,200  
there was condonation  
of this action.

155  
00:10:03,200 --> 00:10:05,210  
Highest levels of  
our government.

156

00:10:05,210 --> 00:10:05,880

Yeah.

157

00:10:05,880 --> 00:10:11,090

Was there ever any  
legal justification?

158

00:10:11,090 --> 00:10:13,730

The actual reason was that  
we needed this man skills

159

00:10:13,730 --> 00:10:17,840

or knowledge or whatever to do  
something for our own purposes.

160

00:10:17,840 --> 00:10:19,670

Was there ever any  
legal reason given

161

00:10:19,670 --> 00:10:23,240

why he should not be held--

162

00:10:23,240 --> 00:10:23,907

None whatsoever.

163

00:10:23,907 --> 00:10:24,573

None whatsoever.

164

00:10:24,573 --> 00:10:26,535

It's an arbitrary  
decision, drop the action.

165

00:10:26,535 --> 00:10:29,860

166

00:10:29,860 --> 00:10:30,390

Wow.

167

00:10:30,390 --> 00:10:30,890

Wow.

168

00:10:30,890 --> 00:10:34,810

169

00:10:34,810 --> 00:10:37,210

There were many reasons  
given as we later--

170

00:10:37,210 --> 00:10:38,590

we complained about it.

171

00:10:38,590 --> 00:10:41,470

Colonel Bates and I  
went to Wiesbaden,

172

00:10:41,470 --> 00:10:45,010

and was summarily  
chased out of the office

173

00:10:45,010 --> 00:10:47,380

up there as we protested this.

174

00:10:47,380 --> 00:10:50,470

We were told, in no  
uncertain terms, that look,

175

00:10:50,470 --> 00:10:53,370

we've been wasting a lot  
of time with these cases.

176

00:10:53,370 --> 00:10:59,440

This man committed no crimes  
against the Army, no crimes

177

00:10:59,440 --> 00:11:02,440

against Americans.

178

00:11:02,440 --> 00:11:04,540

What they were implying  
was that his only crime

179

00:11:04,540 --> 00:11:08,020

was against foreign Jews.

180

00:11:08,020 --> 00:11:10,630

Therefore, unimportant, drop it.

181

00:11:10,630 --> 00:11:13,360

Greater things,  
bigger things coming.

182  
00:11:13,360 --> 00:11:18,040  
And that attitude, I'm afraid,  
prevailed from that point on.

183  
00:11:18,040 --> 00:11:21,190  
From that point on, that  
to me, was the death knell

184  
00:11:21,190 --> 00:11:23,937  
of the American War crimes era.

185  
00:11:23,937 --> 00:11:27,930

186  
00:11:27,930 --> 00:11:31,480  
To your knowledge, at least,  
did any other government,

187  
00:11:31,480 --> 00:11:34,640  
Polish or Soviet, ever express  
an interest in this man?

188  
00:11:34,640 --> 00:11:35,140  
No.

189  
00:11:35,140 --> 00:11:36,243  
Whatsoever.

190  
00:11:36,243 --> 00:11:36,910  
None whatsoever.

191  
00:11:36,910 --> 00:11:37,420  
Right.

192  
00:11:37,420 --> 00:11:40,090  
His crimes were  
solely against Jews.

193  
00:11:40,090 --> 00:11:46,260

194

00:11:46,260 --> 00:11:50,850

At the time, you mentioned  
that this stood out

195

00:11:50,850 --> 00:11:57,210

as a particularly egregious  
example of justice miscarried.

196

00:11:57,210 --> 00:12:00,210

Was there any indication  
in other cases

197

00:12:00,210 --> 00:12:03,510

that, in effect, your own  
side was working against you

198

00:12:03,510 --> 00:12:06,780

in trying to obtain justice?

199

00:12:06,780 --> 00:12:12,930

Well, in many instances, the  
normal botch-up in bureaucracy,

200

00:12:12,930 --> 00:12:15,450

the red tape that  
you go through,

201

00:12:15,450 --> 00:12:18,390

a lack of experience at  
the other end-- really,

202

00:12:18,390 --> 00:12:20,070

who had experience  
in these matters

203

00:12:20,070 --> 00:12:22,950

except those of us who were  
in, let's say, in the trenches?

204

00:12:22,950 --> 00:12:24,630

We learned the hard way.

205

00:12:24,630 --> 00:12:27,360

And we would forward  
our recommendations up

206

00:12:27,360 --> 00:12:28,890  
to Wiesbaden.

207

00:12:28,890 --> 00:12:31,080  
They would come back  
"we do not consider

208

00:12:31,080 --> 00:12:34,950  
it germane enough to  
issue that you raised,"

209

00:12:34,950 --> 00:12:37,950  
whatever it may be, and  
the case was dropped.

210

00:12:37,950 --> 00:12:39,180  
We lost many.

211

00:12:39,180 --> 00:12:42,120

212

00:12:42,120 --> 00:12:45,930  
What we think was, could have  
been an important war criminal.

213

00:12:45,930 --> 00:12:48,090  
At least we made no  
effort to turn him over

214

00:12:48,090 --> 00:12:51,660  
to any of the allied forces that  
might have an interest in him.

215

00:12:51,660 --> 00:12:55,740  
Everyone seemed to  
be going his own way.

216

00:12:55,740 --> 00:12:58,620  
We got to a point  
now, there's a concern

217

00:12:58,620 --> 00:13:00,510  
American military forces--

218

00:13:00,510 --> 00:13:01,770  
forget British.

219  
00:13:01,770 --> 00:13:02,970  
American military forces?

220  
00:13:02,970 --> 00:13:05,110  
If not, drop it.

221  
00:13:05,110 --> 00:13:08,310  
And that was a phase out  
of the war crimes program.

222  
00:13:08,310 --> 00:13:10,222  
It just disappeared.

223  
00:13:10,222 --> 00:13:12,180  
Did any of this appear  
attributable to the fact

224  
00:13:12,180 --> 00:13:14,127  
that there was, in  
fact, a divided command?

225  
00:13:14,127 --> 00:13:15,210  
There were American zones.

226  
00:13:15,210 --> 00:13:17,418  
There were Soviet zones,  
French zones, British zones.

227  
00:13:17,418 --> 00:13:18,570  
Had nothing to do with it.

228  
00:13:18,570 --> 00:13:20,820  
Nothing to it?

229  
00:13:20,820 --> 00:13:23,145  
Nothing to it.

230  
00:13:23,145 --> 00:13:25,350  
They had created a  
monster by creating

231

00:13:25,350 --> 00:13:32,630  
us, the war crimes team with  
rather ill-defined purposes.

232  
00:13:32,630 --> 00:13:35,900  
I think the teams, in  
general, all nine of us,

233  
00:13:35,900 --> 00:13:38,600  
all nine teams performed well.

234  
00:13:38,600 --> 00:13:42,240  
In some instances,  
over and above what

235  
00:13:42,240 --> 00:13:46,280  
our duties may really  
have called for.

236  
00:13:46,280 --> 00:13:48,480  
Worked day and night.

237  
00:13:48,480 --> 00:13:51,840  
We tried to see that  
justice was done.

238  
00:13:51,840 --> 00:13:55,490  
But we didn't always get the  
cooperation from our own peers,

239  
00:13:55,490 --> 00:13:58,470  
much less of the government's.

240  
00:13:58,470 --> 00:14:00,690  
It was frustrating.

241  
00:14:00,690 --> 00:14:02,540  
Now you're faced with a choice.

242  
00:14:02,540 --> 00:14:04,670  
Your conscience bothers you.

243  
00:14:04,670 --> 00:14:08,600  
You know damn well that you  
had some bigwigs sitting there

244

00:14:08,600 --> 00:14:12,770  
in the pen, and you  
know that they got out.

245

00:14:12,770 --> 00:14:16,940  
And the feeling of  
personal culpability

246

00:14:16,940 --> 00:14:20,420  
begins coming over  
you after a while.

247

00:14:20,420 --> 00:14:24,240  
So let's set about  
these things the better.

248

00:14:24,240 --> 00:14:26,450  
I really feel that way.

249

00:14:26,450 --> 00:14:29,030  
I keep thinking  
of the days I used

250

00:14:29,030 --> 00:14:33,290  
to traipse through Hirschberg  
with over 3,000 suspected war

251

00:14:33,290 --> 00:14:34,910  
criminals in there.

252

00:14:34,910 --> 00:14:37,910  
And knowing in retrospect,  
there was Mengele.

253

00:14:37,910 --> 00:14:38,930  
There was Barbie.

254

00:14:38,930 --> 00:14:41,310  
There were some of the biggies.

255

00:14:41,310 --> 00:14:44,000  
Let them all get out.

256

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:46,340  
Now, now, we're  
spending millions

257  
00:14:46,340 --> 00:14:47,792  
of dollars trying to find them.

258  
00:14:47,792 --> 00:14:50,340

259  
00:14:50,340 --> 00:14:51,337  
It's a little too late.

260  
00:14:51,337 --> 00:14:54,259

261  
00:14:54,259 --> 00:14:58,230  
We lack the sincerity  
to start a program,

262  
00:14:58,230 --> 00:15:03,130  
probably as important as  
this, and carry it through.

263  
00:15:03,130 --> 00:15:06,520  
That's my opinion there.

264  
00:15:06,520 --> 00:15:09,820  
Do you think this  
is because we regard

265  
00:15:09,820 --> 00:15:11,800  
yesterday's enemy  
as today's friend,

266  
00:15:11,800 --> 00:15:14,078  
and we have new antagonists,  
and therefore, we--

267  
00:15:14,078 --> 00:15:15,620  
I think you hit it  
right on the head.

268  
00:15:15,620 --> 00:15:17,770  
I think we saw that

back in '45 when we got

269

00:15:17,770 --> 00:15:19,810  
the telegram from Stettinius.

270

00:15:19,810 --> 00:15:22,510

271

00:15:22,510 --> 00:15:23,940  
Let's look at it.

272

00:15:23,940 --> 00:15:27,640  
Who are our best economic  
partners in the world today?

273

00:15:27,640 --> 00:15:28,390  
Germany and Japan.

274

00:15:28,390 --> 00:15:31,090

275

00:15:31,090 --> 00:15:33,830  
Let me ask you this question.

276

00:15:33,830 --> 00:15:40,460  
You are now a private citizen  
with a nonmilitary profession

277

00:15:40,460 --> 00:15:42,070  
and so on.

278

00:15:42,070 --> 00:15:48,730  
Yet, you have kept involved  
and abreast of this issue

279

00:15:48,730 --> 00:15:54,790  
of pursuing war crimes, and  
establishing responsibility,

280

00:15:54,790 --> 00:16:03,390  
and returning to camps,  
like Flossenbürg and Dachau.

281

00:16:03,390 --> 00:16:05,560

You've gathered  
material and have

282  
00:16:05,560 --> 00:16:08,680  
been corresponded  
with by people,

283  
00:16:08,680 --> 00:16:10,570  
like Elie Wiesel and others.

284  
00:16:10,570 --> 00:16:12,700  
What has kept you going?

285  
00:16:12,700 --> 00:16:14,380  
What has motivated you?

286  
00:16:14,380 --> 00:16:17,350  
And to what extent does  
your own Jewishness have

287  
00:16:17,350 --> 00:16:20,020  
something to do with it?

288  
00:16:20,020 --> 00:16:23,350  
My own Jewishness has  
very little to do with it

289  
00:16:23,350 --> 00:16:26,260  
I'd like to believe.

290  
00:16:26,260 --> 00:16:28,210  
I'm of the belief that  
it can, probably will,

291  
00:16:28,210 --> 00:16:31,930  
happen again unless  
we really begin

292  
00:16:31,930 --> 00:16:35,570  
nipping it in the bud today.

293  
00:16:35,570 --> 00:16:38,770  
And the answer is education.

294

00:16:38,770 --> 00:16:40,540  
You see yourself as an educator?

295  
00:16:40,540 --> 00:16:44,710  
That's all I want to see myself  
as, as an educator bringing out

296  
00:16:44,710 --> 00:16:46,400  
the truth.

297  
00:16:46,400 --> 00:16:47,090  
It did happen.

298  
00:16:47,090 --> 00:16:49,720

299  
00:16:49,720 --> 00:16:53,710  
We won't try to reason  
why it happened.

300  
00:16:53,710 --> 00:16:59,240  
It happened and it can happen  
again for sillier reasons

301  
00:16:59,240 --> 00:17:03,588  
than person's religion  
or beliefs [INAUDIBLE]..

302  
00:17:03,588 --> 00:17:06,520

303  
00:17:06,520 --> 00:17:09,099  
There is another or  
perhaps even more

304  
00:17:09,099 --> 00:17:11,770  
equally disturbing question,  
and again, perhaps this

305  
00:17:11,770 --> 00:17:13,930  
is unanswerable.

306  
00:17:13,930 --> 00:17:17,180  
At the very beginning of our  
discussions this afternoon,

307

00:17:17,180 --> 00:17:21,650  
when we talked about how the  
army had you selected and then

308

00:17:21,650 --> 00:17:27,290  
trained for future duty on  
the investigation teams--

309

00:17:27,290 --> 00:17:30,033  
you were trained at  
Cumberland College, was it?

310

00:17:30,033 --> 00:17:30,950  
Cumberland University.

311

00:17:30,950 --> 00:17:32,000  
Cumberland University.

312

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:33,270  
Lebanon, Tennessee.

313

00:17:33,270 --> 00:17:34,220  
OK.

314

00:17:34,220 --> 00:17:36,230  
And there you were given  
access to a great deal

315

00:17:36,230 --> 00:17:39,440  
of classified information  
as to what was going on.

316

00:17:39,440 --> 00:17:42,470  
Did you have a sense then,  
based upon what you were taught

317

00:17:42,470 --> 00:17:45,290  
and the materials to  
which you had access,

318

00:17:45,290 --> 00:17:47,870  
that at least some  
allied governments had

319

00:17:47,870 --> 00:17:51,050

a fairly good idea  
of what was going on,

320

00:17:51,050 --> 00:17:53,690

as early as at least the  
time you were trained?

321

00:17:53,690 --> 00:17:55,490

Well, the London War  
Crimes Commission

322

00:17:55,490 --> 00:17:57,920

was very much in existence then.

323

00:17:57,920 --> 00:17:59,900

And they were  
collating information

324

00:17:59,900 --> 00:18:02,280

from all parts of  
occupied Europe,

325

00:18:02,280 --> 00:18:04,620

very accurate information.

326

00:18:04,620 --> 00:18:06,230

Those pipelines were kept open.

327

00:18:06,230 --> 00:18:08,790

328

00:18:08,790 --> 00:18:12,450

And given these  
materials you saw,

329

00:18:12,450 --> 00:18:16,500

was it still a shock when you  
discovered what was going on

330

00:18:16,500 --> 00:18:19,490

in the camps, or was the  
material fairly good background

331

00:18:19,490 --> 00:18:19,990  
for it?

332  
00:18:19,990 --> 00:18:21,580  
Realism's always a shock.

333  
00:18:21,580 --> 00:18:23,250  
Realism, admittedly,  
must have been.

334  
00:18:23,250 --> 00:18:28,400  
Because along with the realism  
comes the sights, the smells.

335  
00:18:28,400 --> 00:18:32,090  
Very profound shock.

336  
00:18:32,090 --> 00:18:35,420  
Much more than seeing suddenly  
a photograph in front of me.

337  
00:18:35,420 --> 00:18:40,000

338  
00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:45,070  
Do you think that the  
government of the United States

339  
00:18:45,070 --> 00:18:49,010  
deliberately withheld doing  
something it could have done?

340  
00:18:49,010 --> 00:18:53,980  
For example, bombing the railway  
tracks leading to the camps,

341  
00:18:53,980 --> 00:18:58,570  
doing other things  
to sabotage, or--

342  
00:18:58,570 --> 00:19:02,480  
Without going into  
a tactical area,

343  
00:19:02,480 --> 00:19:05,770

I would rather reserve  
comment on that.

344  
00:19:05,770 --> 00:19:09,100

345  
00:19:09,100 --> 00:19:14,290  
But I think we were rather  
good at selecting targets

346  
00:19:14,290 --> 00:19:17,120  
and bombing those targets.

347  
00:19:17,120 --> 00:19:19,913  
These are targets that we didn't  
select and we didn't bomb.

348  
00:19:19,913 --> 00:19:21,580  
If we had selected  
them and bombed them,

349  
00:19:21,580 --> 00:19:23,205  
I think there'll be  
good reason for it.

350  
00:19:23,205 --> 00:19:25,930

351  
00:19:25,930 --> 00:19:26,860  
Double talk?

352  
00:19:26,860 --> 00:19:28,920  
Right.

353  
00:19:28,920 --> 00:19:30,180  
I say, yes and no.

354  
00:19:30,180 --> 00:19:33,500  
They should have bombed them,  
should not have bombed them.

355  
00:19:33,500 --> 00:19:39,530  
Should they have bombed a camp  
like Flossenbürg, I'd say yes.

356

00:19:39,530 --> 00:19:43,145

If they'd destroyed those  
Messerschmitts on the ground,

357

00:19:43,145 --> 00:19:45,830

it would have saved a hell of a  
lot more lives than would have

358

00:19:45,830 --> 00:19:49,030

been lost at  
Flossenbürg in the area.

359

00:19:49,030 --> 00:19:51,950

360

00:19:51,950 --> 00:19:54,910

So as we're winding down  
toward the end of our afternoon

361

00:19:54,910 --> 00:20:00,915

together, to conclude the  
interview, Mr. Wegard,

362

00:20:00,915 --> 00:20:02,290

is there anything  
that you'd like

363

00:20:02,290 --> 00:20:06,640

to leave us with as far as why  
you mentioned that you thought

364

00:20:06,640 --> 00:20:09,250

it could happen again?

365

00:20:09,250 --> 00:20:11,320

With all of our discussion,  
it's very difficult

366

00:20:11,320 --> 00:20:15,238

to assign reasons as to why  
it happened the first time.

367

00:20:15,238 --> 00:20:17,530

But you've obviously given  
that quite a bit of thought.

368

00:20:17,530 --> 00:20:19,000

You do think it  
could happen again.

369

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:20,770

Can happen.

370

00:20:20,770 --> 00:20:27,400

I'm not picking on experience  
during my time on this Earth,

371

00:20:27,400 --> 00:20:29,860

1917 period on forward.

372

00:20:29,860 --> 00:20:32,680

Let's go back into history.

373

00:20:32,680 --> 00:20:36,040

There's always a Caligula  
showing up across the horizon

374

00:20:36,040 --> 00:20:37,810

somewhere.

375

00:20:37,810 --> 00:20:39,580

Go back to the very  
history of man.

376

00:20:39,580 --> 00:20:41,490

We've had massacres  
and massacres,

377

00:20:41,490 --> 00:20:44,980

and it'll always  
happen unfortunately.

378

00:20:44,980 --> 00:20:47,410

Hopefully, never again  
on a scale like we

379

00:20:47,410 --> 00:20:49,270

witnessed in World War II.

380

00:20:49,270 --> 00:20:50,320  
But it happened then.

381  
00:20:50,320 --> 00:20:51,970  
It can happen again.

382  
00:20:51,970 --> 00:20:58,230  
And the groundswell, you can  
almost call it a groundswell,

383  
00:20:58,230 --> 00:21:01,870  
is beginning to develop.

384  
00:21:01,870 --> 00:21:06,070  
All the rudiments are there  
now for something like that.

385  
00:21:06,070 --> 00:21:09,540  
You keep repeating a lie, after  
a while, it becomes the truth.

386  
00:21:09,540 --> 00:21:12,040  
You'll keep believing it.

387  
00:21:12,040 --> 00:21:15,760  
And you've got these poison  
tongued speakers out there

388  
00:21:15,760 --> 00:21:17,497  
convincing quite a few people.

389  
00:21:17,497 --> 00:21:20,080  
And they're convincing them at  
universities, such as this one.

390  
00:21:20,080 --> 00:21:23,080  
Not necessarily at this  
one, but universities,

391  
00:21:23,080 --> 00:21:26,200  
major universities,  
they're featured speakers

392  
00:21:26,200 --> 00:21:27,170  
at these universities.

393

00:21:27,170 --> 00:21:31,210

They're permitted to talk  
there and spew their venom.

394

00:21:31,210 --> 00:21:36,790

And the more they'll  
talk, I, for one,

395

00:21:36,790 --> 00:21:38,590

pick them up as  
personal targets.

396

00:21:38,590 --> 00:21:45,970

The other people I would like  
to be on a roster with, talk to.

397

00:21:45,970 --> 00:21:47,200

Find me one.

398

00:21:47,200 --> 00:21:49,490

Have you ever debated  
anyone on this issue?

399

00:21:49,490 --> 00:21:50,530

No.

400

00:21:50,530 --> 00:21:52,525

Informally, never formal.

401

00:21:52,525 --> 00:21:57,430

402

00:21:57,430 --> 00:21:58,870

Thank you very much, Mr. Wegard.

403

00:21:58,870 --> 00:21:59,585

My pleasure.

404

00:21:59,585 --> 00:22:00,460

Appreciate your time.

405

00:22:00,460 --> 00:22:02,620

Thank you.

406

00:22:02,620 --> 00:22:05,970

[MUSIC PLAYING]

407

00:22:05,970 --> 00:22:43,000