

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,980

2
00:00:01,980 --> 00:00:04,455
[MUSIC PLAYING]

3
00:00:04,455 --> 00:00:21,790

4
00:00:21,790 --> 00:00:22,940
Good morning.

5
00:00:22,940 --> 00:00:24,610
My name is Bernard
Weinstein, and I'm

6
00:00:24,610 --> 00:00:27,010
the Director of the Kean
College Oral History

7
00:00:27,010 --> 00:00:29,980
Project of the Holocaust
Resource Center.

8
00:00:29,980 --> 00:00:32,200
We are affiliated with
the Video Archives

9
00:00:32,200 --> 00:00:35,680
for Holocaust Testimonies
of Yale University.

10
00:00:35,680 --> 00:00:38,470
We are privileged to
welcome today Mr. John B.

11
00:00:38,470 --> 00:00:42,820
Coulston, a liberator of
Ohrdruf concentration camp,

12
00:00:42,820 --> 00:00:46,300

who is presently living in
Convent Station, New Jersey,

13
00:00:46,300 --> 00:00:50,020
and has generously
volunteered to give testimony

14
00:00:50,020 --> 00:00:54,700
about what he saw at the
liberation of Ohrdruf camp

15
00:00:54,700 --> 00:00:56,590
and other places.

16
00:00:56,590 --> 00:00:59,800
Mr. Coulston, I'd like to
welcome you and tell you

17
00:00:59,800 --> 00:01:03,210
how privileged we
are to have you here.

18
00:01:03,210 --> 00:01:08,680
I'd like you to begin by telling
us a little bit about your life

19
00:01:08,680 --> 00:01:11,680
before the war, and
where you came from

20
00:01:11,680 --> 00:01:14,560
and what your own aspirations
were as a young man

21
00:01:14,560 --> 00:01:16,490
and go from there.

22
00:01:16,490 --> 00:01:17,440
Thank you.

23
00:01:17,440 --> 00:01:21,460
Well, I was born
in New York City,

24
00:01:21,460 --> 00:01:23,230
although we lived in Brooklyn.

25
00:01:23,230 --> 00:01:27,760
And we moved to
Montclair in New Jersey.

26
00:01:27,760 --> 00:01:29,560
I was about two years old.

27
00:01:29,560 --> 00:01:32,500
I spent the rest of my
life until the war there,

28
00:01:32,500 --> 00:01:39,730
accepting for prep school in
Choate, up in Connecticut.

29
00:01:39,730 --> 00:01:44,440
My aspirations, I worked as
an office boy after school,

30
00:01:44,440 --> 00:01:47,710
and then I went to work
for my family business.

31
00:01:47,710 --> 00:01:50,320

32
00:01:50,320 --> 00:01:56,950
At about the 8th or
10th of September, 1939,

33
00:01:56,950 --> 00:01:59,620
England declared war in Poland.

34
00:01:59,620 --> 00:02:01,960
And not only I, but
most of my friends,

35
00:02:01,960 --> 00:02:04,570

joined the National Guard
of the state of New Jersey,

36
00:02:04,570 --> 00:02:07,420
because we felt
that war would come.

37
00:02:07,420 --> 00:02:08,800
We joined.

38
00:02:08,800 --> 00:02:12,370
We trained with very, very old
officers, with wooden guns,

39
00:02:12,370 --> 00:02:15,200
and that sort of thing.

40
00:02:15,200 --> 00:02:18,400
But we thought we were doing the
work that we were supposed to.

41
00:02:18,400 --> 00:02:20,680
We thought that
somehow, we would

42
00:02:20,680 --> 00:02:26,470
have to fight the man who we
all recognized was a menace.

43
00:02:26,470 --> 00:02:32,320
And we knew that because
of the Fritz Kuhn people

44
00:02:32,320 --> 00:02:34,480
and the American Nazi party.

45
00:02:34,480 --> 00:02:36,520
I forget what they were called.

46
00:02:36,520 --> 00:02:37,750
The German American Bund?

47

00:02:37,750 --> 00:02:39,550
The German American Bund.

48
00:02:39,550 --> 00:02:43,810
And occasionally, we'd go up
to Yorkville and see them,

49
00:02:43,810 --> 00:02:46,480
and that's one of
the main reasons we

50
00:02:46,480 --> 00:02:49,680
understood what was going on.

51
00:02:49,680 --> 00:02:53,690
I did work as a salesman
for our family company,

52
00:02:53,690 --> 00:02:58,310
which was in the paint industry,
raw materials suppliers.

53
00:02:58,310 --> 00:03:01,250
And of course, I heard
more about Hitler

54
00:03:01,250 --> 00:03:03,800
from the fathers
of the people who

55
00:03:03,800 --> 00:03:09,110
were running the companies who
were Polish and Russian Jews,

56
00:03:09,110 --> 00:03:12,110
and from one German,
a German-Jew who

57
00:03:12,110 --> 00:03:14,550
had been a cavalryman,
an officer,

58
00:03:14,550 --> 00:03:20,180

in one of the most prestigious
of the Kaiser's cavalry units.

59

00:03:20,180 --> 00:03:26,930
And I suppose that is what made
me understand somewhat, even

60

00:03:26,930 --> 00:03:29,760
back then, what was happening.

61

00:03:29,760 --> 00:03:36,050
Also, in our industry, we
had a wonderful, cooperative

62

00:03:36,050 --> 00:03:38,570
industrial committee.

63

00:03:38,570 --> 00:03:44,270
And one of the men who owned
a paint factory in Vienna,

64

00:03:44,270 --> 00:03:48,950
he also was a paint
technician and advisor

65

00:03:48,950 --> 00:03:51,000
over here in New York City.

66

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:52,460
He was a member of this.

67

00:03:52,460 --> 00:03:57,980
Came back and wrote a book,
and this was about 1938, 1939.

68

00:03:57,980 --> 00:04:00,290
I'll have to remember his name.

69

00:04:00,290 --> 00:04:03,080
And he's still
alive, by the way.

70

00:04:03,080 --> 00:04:06,710

And he printed the
book and distributed it

71

00:04:06,710 --> 00:04:09,020

amongst all the people who
were in the paint business

72

00:04:09,020 --> 00:04:11,660

back in those days,
warning about Hitler.

73

00:04:11,660 --> 00:04:13,680

Of course, the press
and the other people

74

00:04:13,680 --> 00:04:14,840

never heard about it.

75

00:04:14,840 --> 00:04:19,355

But that's my past until the
moment I joined the Army,

76

00:04:19,355 --> 00:04:21,240

and enlisted me, of course.

77

00:04:21,240 --> 00:04:22,880

Yeah.

78

00:04:22,880 --> 00:04:26,180

In those years,
undoubtedly, you must

79

00:04:26,180 --> 00:04:30,470

have encountered the
American Foresters

80

00:04:30,470 --> 00:04:33,435

and isolationists and people
who spoke against the war.

81

00:04:33,435 --> 00:04:35,060

It sounds from

everything you're saying

82

00:04:35,060 --> 00:04:40,100

that your perception, your
early perception of what

83

00:04:40,100 --> 00:04:43,250

was going on, was not the
typical response of a young man

84

00:04:43,250 --> 00:04:46,220

your age or in that time.

85

00:04:46,220 --> 00:04:48,170

I agree there,
but I only learned

86

00:04:48,170 --> 00:04:49,830

that after I became
an office boy

87

00:04:49,830 --> 00:04:53,570

and met many other people
from other sections of New

88

00:04:53,570 --> 00:04:55,190

York and New Jersey.

89

00:04:55,190 --> 00:04:58,350

Because most of my
friends thought as I did.

90

00:04:58,350 --> 00:05:01,700

We were sort of a closed
community, Montclair.

91

00:05:01,700 --> 00:05:04,170

We had our own social life.

92

00:05:04,170 --> 00:05:08,300

There were a number of types
of people in our crowd.

93

00:05:08,300 --> 00:05:14,480

But really, I suppose it
was what we call patriotism.

94

00:05:14,480 --> 00:05:17,210

We had a different feeling
about the whole situation

95

00:05:17,210 --> 00:05:19,670

than I learned about
later, when I went to work

96

00:05:19,670 --> 00:05:25,160

and talked to other people who
thought we were rather foolish.

97

00:05:25,160 --> 00:05:25,670

We weren't.

98

00:05:25,670 --> 00:05:29,450

But of course, my father
in business, back in 1931,

99

00:05:29,450 --> 00:05:34,040

came home from
meetings in Germany

100

00:05:34,040 --> 00:05:38,840

on the Rhine, a
lovely, lovely place.

101

00:05:38,840 --> 00:05:42,020

This was just before
Hitler came in.

102

00:05:42,020 --> 00:05:49,580

And he told mother and me about
the wonderful bar in the hotel,

103

00:05:49,580 --> 00:05:52,220

and it was a rather
aristocratic, or rather

104

00:05:52,220 --> 00:05:53,840
exclusive, place.

105

00:05:53,840 --> 00:05:57,590
But suddenly, men in black
leather jackets came in,

106

00:05:57,590 --> 00:05:59,510
and they started to
sing boisterously

107

00:05:59,510 --> 00:06:05,690
and they drank their beer
in a rather strange way.

108

00:06:05,690 --> 00:06:08,300
And he asked this business
associate of Germany, he said,

109

00:06:08,300 --> 00:06:09,440
who are those people?

110

00:06:09,440 --> 00:06:12,050
He was surprised that they
were allowed in the place.

111

00:06:12,050 --> 00:06:15,350
And the business associate said,
oh, they're Hitler's people.

112

00:06:15,350 --> 00:06:16,400
They're called Nazis.

113

00:06:16,400 --> 00:06:18,410
But don't worry about that.

114

00:06:18,410 --> 00:06:21,110
I mean, they're just bums.

115

00:06:21,110 --> 00:06:27,380
But Dad because in a place, in a
hotel in a restaurant, in a bar

116
00:06:27,380 --> 00:06:32,810
like that, normally these
people would have been ejected.

117
00:06:32,810 --> 00:06:35,450
But not even the bartender
paid any attention to them.

118
00:06:35,450 --> 00:06:37,550
They were sort of
afraid of them.

119
00:06:37,550 --> 00:06:42,450
And so that whole thing
seemed to gel in my mind,

120
00:06:42,450 --> 00:06:47,000
and as we talked to our friends,
our friends in their minds.

121
00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:50,120
So maybe I'm a little different.

122
00:06:50,120 --> 00:06:53,240
Thank goodness.

123
00:06:53,240 --> 00:06:56,180
Tell us a little about your
Army experiences, if you will.

124
00:06:56,180 --> 00:06:57,170
Oh, thank you.

125
00:06:57,170 --> 00:06:59,300
Yes.

126
00:06:59,300 --> 00:07:02,180
I guess I was the proper age.

127
00:07:02,180 --> 00:07:03,080
I was 21.

128
00:07:03,080 --> 00:07:07,920
That's the enlistment
age in those days.

129
00:07:07,920 --> 00:07:10,790
And I did join the horse
cavalry, the Essex Troop.

130
00:07:10,790 --> 00:07:12,620
We had a wonderful
time with horses.

131
00:07:12,620 --> 00:07:13,880
This was when?

132
00:07:13,880 --> 00:07:20,690
That's in 1939 in September,
just after England declared war

133
00:07:20,690 --> 00:07:21,950
in Poland.

134
00:07:21,950 --> 00:07:28,520
We were called out for an
extra two weeks, [INAUDIBLE]..

135
00:07:28,520 --> 00:07:32,060
And I learned to shoot and
I learned to ride properly,

136
00:07:32,060 --> 00:07:33,490
the military way.

137
00:07:33,490 --> 00:07:35,780
Then we were finally
called out for the one

138
00:07:35,780 --> 00:07:42,200
year of active duty, back in
1941, very early in January.

139

00:07:42,200 --> 00:07:47,330

And as you might remember, there
were only 220,000 Americans

140

00:07:47,330 --> 00:07:49,330

in uniform in those
days, regular Army.

141

00:07:49,330 --> 00:07:52,360

There were 440,000 of us.

142

00:07:52,360 --> 00:07:57,670

So immediately, we had
660,000 troops, Army troops

143

00:07:57,670 --> 00:08:00,010

in the Army, in
the United States,

144

00:08:00,010 --> 00:08:05,540

but of course, we were equipped
with World War I equipment.

145

00:08:05,540 --> 00:08:12,910

It was enjoyable back in those
days, but as war came closer,

146

00:08:12,910 --> 00:08:17,290

we all realized the necessity
of doing the proper job.

147

00:08:17,290 --> 00:08:21,910

And I was sent to OCS,
Officer Candidate School,

148

00:08:21,910 --> 00:08:27,070

just after Pearl
Harbor day in 1941,

149

00:08:27,070 --> 00:08:33,520

and then I graduated
in April, March 1942.

150

00:08:33,520 --> 00:08:37,330

I was sent to the 602nd
Tank Destroyer Battalion.

151

00:08:37,330 --> 00:08:41,799

And it just happened that I
arrived there with this unit

152

00:08:41,799 --> 00:08:46,000

that I was going to spend
my entire career, three

153

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:50,890

more years, exactly
three years before we

154

00:08:50,890 --> 00:08:53,200

entered that
horrible camp called

155

00:08:53,200 --> 00:08:56,620

Ohrdruf, that first camp.

156

00:08:56,620 --> 00:09:01,120

And what was your tour of
duty like prior to that time?

157

00:09:01,120 --> 00:09:03,550

Where were you?

158

00:09:03,550 --> 00:09:04,720

We trained.

159

00:09:04,720 --> 00:09:09,640

We were under a regular Army
colonel, magnificent man.

160

00:09:09,640 --> 00:09:10,600

He was hard.

161

00:09:10,600 --> 00:09:13,450

He was tough, but he
trained us properly.

162

00:09:13,450 --> 00:09:16,570

He trained us in such a way that
we probably had less casualties

163

00:09:16,570 --> 00:09:20,140

than the normal tank destroyer
battalion that was engaged

164

00:09:20,140 --> 00:09:23,440

in the same type of combat.

165

00:09:23,440 --> 00:09:27,850

We were in the units
and were prepared

166

00:09:27,850 --> 00:09:31,360

for the Narvik invasion, which
fortunately didn't come out.

167

00:09:31,360 --> 00:09:33,640

That was in Norway,
as you remember.

168

00:09:33,640 --> 00:09:37,180

And that was to protect
the lend-lease ships

169

00:09:37,180 --> 00:09:44,920

from going around to
crushing the ice flows.

170

00:09:44,920 --> 00:09:51,070

We were fortunate in going to
France at the end of August,

171

00:09:51,070 --> 00:09:52,720

rather than D-Day.

172

00:09:52,720 --> 00:09:54,970

We were delayed somewhat.

173

00:09:54,970 --> 00:09:58,480

And then because of
training, we were

174

00:09:58,480 --> 00:10:03,190

able to be a very effective
unit from the very beginning.

175

00:10:03,190 --> 00:10:05,440

Yes, it was hard.

176

00:10:05,440 --> 00:10:09,190

Yes, we had numerous casualties.

177

00:10:09,190 --> 00:10:16,130

Our job, of course, was, as the
name implies, to fight tanks.

178

00:10:16,130 --> 00:10:20,990

Our vehicles were very lightly
armored, but very heavily

179

00:10:20,990 --> 00:10:22,220

armed.

180

00:10:22,220 --> 00:10:26,120

They weighed 20 tons, but
they could go 70 miles

181

00:10:26,120 --> 00:10:31,640

an hour forward
and 35 backwards.

182

00:10:31,640 --> 00:10:34,760

We thought we were in the
greatest tank battle the United

183

00:10:34,760 --> 00:10:38,690

States had and ever
had since, which

184

00:10:38,690 --> 00:10:41,390

was in September and October.

185
00:10:41,390 --> 00:10:44,870
And around just before we
got to Alsace-Lorraine,

186
00:10:44,870 --> 00:10:48,560
we were attached to the 4th
Armored and many other units.

187
00:10:48,560 --> 00:10:50,690
We were caught in the
Bulge, or rather we

188
00:10:50,690 --> 00:10:51,800
were sent to the Bulge.

189
00:10:51,800 --> 00:10:53,960
We were the first
troops up there.

190
00:10:53,960 --> 00:11:00,800
And we got there the 20th of
December from the Third Army.

191
00:11:00,800 --> 00:11:03,570
We were surrounded,
as others were.

192
00:11:03,570 --> 00:11:07,070
And then afterwards, we
were in the breakthrough

193
00:11:07,070 --> 00:11:08,720
and fought our way
up to the Rhine.

194
00:11:08,720 --> 00:11:11,610

195
00:11:11,610 --> 00:11:15,480
We could anticipate
each other's actions

196

00:11:15,480 --> 00:11:18,180
because we had been around so
long, three years of training

197

00:11:18,180 --> 00:11:19,410
together.

198

00:11:19,410 --> 00:11:21,120
And that, again,
is why we didn't

199

00:11:21,120 --> 00:11:24,750
have that many casualties,
as compared to others,

200

00:11:24,750 --> 00:11:28,080
although we were severely hurt.

201

00:11:28,080 --> 00:11:34,120
We crossed the Rhine
towards the end of March,

202

00:11:34,120 --> 00:11:41,215
the fourth day of April, 1945.

203

00:11:41,215 --> 00:11:44,740
And I found this-- no, it
was the first I'm sorry.

204

00:11:44,740 --> 00:11:47,350
The first day of April, 1945.

205

00:11:47,350 --> 00:11:50,320
And I found this
in the army books.

206

00:11:50,320 --> 00:11:56,470
General Bradley evidently
called up the armored forces

207

00:11:56,470 --> 00:11:59,290
and ordered them,

as a task force,

208

00:11:59,290 --> 00:12:02,800

to go forward towards
a place called Ohrdruf.

209

00:12:02,800 --> 00:12:07,780

At that time, our lines
were rather static.

210

00:12:07,780 --> 00:12:11,410

The Germans were fighting,
at least in that area.

211

00:12:11,410 --> 00:12:14,950

But somehow, General
Eisenhower, according

212

00:12:14,950 --> 00:12:18,220

to the books and the
records, wanted Ohrdruf.

213

00:12:18,220 --> 00:12:20,500

It's near Gothen.

214

00:12:20,500 --> 00:12:23,380

We were attached to the 4th
Armored and the 89th Infantry

215

00:12:23,380 --> 00:12:26,955

Division, which were
in a task force.

216

00:12:26,955 --> 00:12:30,060

We, because of our equipment,
along with the cavalry

217

00:12:30,060 --> 00:12:32,310

and the other tank
destroyer peoples,

218

00:12:32,310 --> 00:12:34,050

were sort of a screening for us.

219

00:12:34,050 --> 00:12:37,980

That means that we were in
front of the major elements.

220

00:12:37,980 --> 00:12:39,570

So vanguard?

221

00:12:39,570 --> 00:12:40,650

The vanguard.

222

00:12:40,650 --> 00:12:43,380

And if too many troops were
fighting in front of us,

223

00:12:43,380 --> 00:12:47,010

we would go around them and
let the heavy armor go forward.

224

00:12:47,010 --> 00:12:51,090

If there weren't too
many, it was all right.

225

00:12:51,090 --> 00:12:58,830

Now also, since then, I
learned that April 1st, 1945

226

00:12:58,830 --> 00:13:06,170

was Easter Sunday and was also
the fourth day of Passover.

227

00:13:06,170 --> 00:13:10,350

We got to Ohrdruf the
seventh day of Passover.

228

00:13:10,350 --> 00:13:18,090

And we liberated either four
or eight peoples, and the rest

229

00:13:18,090 --> 00:13:20,970

were dead or being marched away.

230

00:13:20,970 --> 00:13:22,980
And I understand from
one of the survivors--

231
00:13:22,980 --> 00:13:24,240
Four or eight people?

232
00:13:24,240 --> 00:13:25,890
Yeah, four or eight people.

233
00:13:25,890 --> 00:13:28,440
Out of how many,
can you estimate?

234
00:13:28,440 --> 00:13:31,800
Ohrdruf, according to
history, was opened.

235
00:13:31,800 --> 00:13:36,390
Remember, the SS had that
magnificent record keeping

236
00:13:36,390 --> 00:13:37,470
ability.

237
00:13:37,470 --> 00:13:38,580
And it was opened.

238
00:13:38,580 --> 00:13:43,650
It had been a school, and
OSC school for SS officers.

239
00:13:43,650 --> 00:13:45,420
It had been opened
as a concentration

240
00:13:45,420 --> 00:13:50,370
camp on the 6th of November,
1944, according to history.

241
00:13:50,370 --> 00:13:54,180
It was forcibly closed
when our Sergeant Beeson,

242

00:13:54,180 --> 00:13:59,680
who's now dead, crashed his tank
destroyer through the gates.

243

00:13:59,680 --> 00:14:06,240
And they were killing-- the
guards who had been left behind

244

00:14:06,240 --> 00:14:09,090
were killing the last
of the survivors.

245

00:14:09,090 --> 00:14:12,090
They had just gotten
out of the hospital.

246

00:14:12,090 --> 00:14:14,100
The other survivors
had been marched away.

247

00:14:14,100 --> 00:14:18,150
And this man who we still
know, the only one we

248

00:14:18,150 --> 00:14:21,720
found, a man named
Leo Leifur, he

249

00:14:21,720 --> 00:14:23,980
was found by
[? Bonnie Gurewitz ?], which

250

00:14:23,980 --> 00:14:25,860
the Center for
Holocaust studies,

251

00:14:25,860 --> 00:14:33,330
at the Lodz ghetto
festival, or whatever

252

00:14:33,330 --> 00:14:35,130
they call it, up in 1943.

253
00:14:35,130 --> 00:14:36,060
Commemoration.

254
00:14:36,060 --> 00:14:38,760
Yeah.

255
00:14:38,760 --> 00:14:40,560
He said that the
rest of the people,

256
00:14:40,560 --> 00:14:45,420
the so-called able-bodied
slaves, had been marched away,

257
00:14:45,420 --> 00:14:49,230
and he saw the march and then
killed by those other guards.

258
00:14:49,230 --> 00:14:51,960
But they're either
four or eight.

259
00:14:51,960 --> 00:14:54,240
I have pictures of four of them.

260
00:14:54,240 --> 00:14:57,990
Leo and the other three with
him had escaped two days before

261
00:14:57,990 --> 00:15:01,530
and had been hiding
out and saw us come in.

262
00:15:01,530 --> 00:15:05,075
What was your perception
as you saw them

263
00:15:05,075 --> 00:15:07,560
when you first came upon them?

264
00:15:07,560 --> 00:15:14,220

I've been thinking of that and
praying about it for 42 years.

265
00:15:14,220 --> 00:15:17,430
I had anger.

266
00:15:17,430 --> 00:15:20,430
My brain, and those of the
rest of our people's brains,

267
00:15:20,430 --> 00:15:22,810
were disoriented.

268
00:15:22,810 --> 00:15:26,310
We had seen, of course, death.

269
00:15:26,310 --> 00:15:29,030
We had seen bodies burned.

270
00:15:29,030 --> 00:15:30,120
We had smelled the smell.

271
00:15:30,120 --> 00:15:33,930
Because after all, in
tank destroyers and tanks,

272
00:15:33,930 --> 00:15:35,460
that's the way you die.

273
00:15:35,460 --> 00:15:37,080
But this was different.

274
00:15:37,080 --> 00:15:38,760
This was entirely different.

275
00:15:38,760 --> 00:15:42,380
You could see the
skeletons, but so what.

276
00:15:42,380 --> 00:15:45,060

277

00:15:45,060 --> 00:15:51,480

I do know this, because a girl,
a young girl in a high school,

278

00:15:51,480 --> 00:15:54,360

a second generation girl--

279

00:15:54,360 --> 00:15:56,610

I had been talking
to Al Adler, you

280

00:15:56,610 --> 00:16:00,270

might remember him, at
Livingston High School.

281

00:16:00,270 --> 00:16:03,060

And most of the girls,
most of the students,

282

00:16:03,060 --> 00:16:05,490

wrote letters thanking me,
the regular type of thing.

283

00:16:05,490 --> 00:16:08,010

Thank you for coming and
explaining about what has

284

00:16:08,010 --> 00:16:10,440

happened from your perspective.

285

00:16:10,440 --> 00:16:12,420

But one little girl didn't.

286

00:16:12,420 --> 00:16:14,970

She wrote and said--

287

00:16:14,970 --> 00:16:16,830

she was second generation.

288

00:16:16,830 --> 00:16:21,180

And she said when Mr.
Coulston started to talk,

289

00:16:21,180 --> 00:16:23,490

I looked at his gray
hair and his bald spot

290

00:16:23,490 --> 00:16:27,420

and I started to think
of an old grandfather

291

00:16:27,420 --> 00:16:30,210

that I had never been
privileged to know

292

00:16:30,210 --> 00:16:32,470

and that I was
sitting at his feet.

293

00:16:32,470 --> 00:16:36,960

But then when he started
to talk about his feelings

294

00:16:36,960 --> 00:16:39,000

as he went into
the camp, he didn't

295

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:41,730

show the type of compassion
that I understood.

296

00:16:41,730 --> 00:16:43,800

He showed no compassion.

297

00:16:43,800 --> 00:16:48,930

Well, I know I had it,
but I had to investigate,

298

00:16:48,930 --> 00:16:50,327

and I can't really
tell anything,

299

00:16:50,327 --> 00:16:52,410

except being out of the
letters that my father had

300
00:16:52,410 --> 00:16:54,180
saved for me.

301
00:16:54,180 --> 00:16:56,130
And fortunately, I
had found out there,

302
00:16:56,130 --> 00:16:58,830
and I found out a little
later from my daughter,

303
00:16:58,830 --> 00:17:03,370
my own daughter, who's now
about 38, one of my letters

304
00:17:03,370 --> 00:17:04,680
had said--

305
00:17:04,680 --> 00:17:08,609
because Dad didn't believe in
the horrors of such things.

306
00:17:08,609 --> 00:17:10,410
He had heard about
the Germans back

307
00:17:10,410 --> 00:17:14,220
in 1914, 1918, the atrocities.

308
00:17:14,220 --> 00:17:17,400
And so I had written,
more or less,

309
00:17:17,400 --> 00:17:23,440
dear Dad, what I am about to
tell you is a horrible thing,

310
00:17:23,440 --> 00:17:28,030
but please believe me
because I actually saw it.

311

00:17:28,030 --> 00:17:30,940

Excuse me, was this
written immediately after?

312

00:17:30,940 --> 00:17:33,550

Immediately afterwards,
about three days afterwards.

313

00:17:33,550 --> 00:17:37,220

I said, I saw it.

314

00:17:37,220 --> 00:17:43,420

And then I said, you may not
believe it, but it is true.

315

00:17:43,420 --> 00:17:45,910

I also later sent
him a picture where

316

00:17:45,910 --> 00:17:51,520

I had 36 bodies in front
of me, and then beyond them

317

00:17:51,520 --> 00:17:55,420

was a man he knew, the captain
of our reconnaissance company,

318

00:17:55,420 --> 00:17:59,950

who actually had
lived in our home.

319

00:17:59,950 --> 00:18:03,610

And then I ended
it by saying, I'm

320

00:18:03,610 --> 00:18:05,320

sorry to talk
about such horrors.

321

00:18:05,320 --> 00:18:07,180

I know mother doesn't like it.

322

00:18:07,180 --> 00:18:08,830

But damn it, it really got me.

323

00:18:08,830 --> 00:18:11,650

And that's a rather abrupt
or rather silly answer,

324

00:18:11,650 --> 00:18:17,590

but you see, I come from an
Anglo-British background,

325

00:18:17,590 --> 00:18:21,340

where we weren't supposed
to really show emotion.

326

00:18:21,340 --> 00:18:23,772

You remember when we played
baseball or something

327

00:18:23,772 --> 00:18:25,480

or football and break
a leg or something,

328

00:18:25,480 --> 00:18:26,860

we weren't supposed to cry.

329

00:18:26,860 --> 00:18:27,760

Stiff upper lip.

330

00:18:27,760 --> 00:18:29,440

That's my background.

331

00:18:29,440 --> 00:18:34,402

So how could you really
know what you were feeling?

332

00:18:34,402 --> 00:18:39,880

Now my daughter, fortunately
for me, added to that.

333

00:18:39,880 --> 00:18:44,020

And she was talking to the
chap about these things,

334

00:18:44,020 --> 00:18:45,490
and I was there.

335

00:18:45,490 --> 00:18:49,270
And she said, something
happened in the last four years

336

00:18:49,270 --> 00:18:52,450
to Dad ever since he
went down to Washington

337

00:18:52,450 --> 00:18:54,520
to the meeting of the
liberators, the State

338

00:18:54,520 --> 00:18:56,410
Department.

339

00:18:56,410 --> 00:18:59,470
He seems to have ended his war.

340

00:18:59,470 --> 00:19:05,140
She said she remembered that
friends of mine from the Army

341

00:19:05,140 --> 00:19:07,922
would come, and we
discussed what we had seen.

342

00:19:07,922 --> 00:19:09,630
We couldn't discuss
it with other people.

343

00:19:09,630 --> 00:19:12,550
They just didn't believe us.

344

00:19:12,550 --> 00:19:15,470
And I remember back
then she didn't.

345

00:19:15,470 --> 00:19:17,920
There was an insane asylum

in Cedar Grove near where

346

00:19:17,920 --> 00:19:20,620

we lived, and
sometimes this friend

347

00:19:20,620 --> 00:19:22,060

of mine, a particular friend--

348

00:19:22,060 --> 00:19:24,820

Ivan Curry, Texas, now dead.

349

00:19:24,820 --> 00:19:28,810

And I would pass the place and
wonder if these people were

350

00:19:28,810 --> 00:19:30,790

really insane.

351

00:19:30,790 --> 00:19:33,010

And I just wonder now
why we thought that,

352

00:19:33,010 --> 00:19:37,150

accepting for the
Holocaust that we had seen.

353

00:19:37,150 --> 00:19:41,110

And then she said not only Dad,
but the rest of his friends,

354

00:19:41,110 --> 00:19:44,500

seemed to have
now found release.

355

00:19:44,500 --> 00:19:46,365

And so that, I
suppose, is my story,

356

00:19:46,365 --> 00:19:49,030

but it's taken 45
years, 40 years,

357

00:19:49,030 --> 00:19:55,140
to find out how I really felt.

358

00:19:55,140 --> 00:20:00,330
You mentioned something to
me earlier about receiving

359

00:20:00,330 --> 00:20:02,860
a tulip or a flower.

360

00:20:02,860 --> 00:20:03,900
Oh.

361

00:20:03,900 --> 00:20:05,040
Was that in Ohrdruf?

362

00:20:05,040 --> 00:20:09,330
No, that was a
beautiful experience.

363

00:20:09,330 --> 00:20:12,570
I don't remember which
other camps we went into.

364

00:20:12,570 --> 00:20:15,600
Ohrdruf was taken the 4th.

365

00:20:15,600 --> 00:20:20,700
The end of the war was the
6th, I think it was, of May.

366

00:20:20,700 --> 00:20:23,130
And we ran into quite
a few of the camps.

367

00:20:23,130 --> 00:20:25,560
But there was one that
I did write about,

368

00:20:25,560 --> 00:20:27,510
and I can only talk
through my letters.

369
00:20:27,510 --> 00:20:30,240

370
00:20:30,240 --> 00:20:33,900
We call the survivors
slaves, by the way.

371
00:20:33,900 --> 00:20:38,940
And it just happened that
the colonel and I and a few

372
00:20:38,940 --> 00:20:44,010
of our men went into a camp,
and we were the very first

373
00:20:44,010 --> 00:20:47,340
of the friendly armed
forces or soldiers

374
00:20:47,340 --> 00:20:49,860
that these people had ever seen.

375
00:20:49,860 --> 00:20:51,510
And a group of
about three or four

376
00:20:51,510 --> 00:20:56,020
came in, or came out of the
huts of the contonments.

377
00:20:56,020 --> 00:20:59,100
They walked towards
us, apparently leaders.

378
00:20:59,100 --> 00:21:01,530
And one old lady--

379
00:21:01,530 --> 00:21:06,600
I called her an old lady in
my letter, about 50 I said.

380

00:21:06,600 --> 00:21:08,820
Russian or Polish,
I also said that.

381
00:21:08,820 --> 00:21:14,370
She came to me and she
gave me a faded tulip,

382
00:21:14,370 --> 00:21:17,640
and she was crying,
and yet she had

383
00:21:17,640 --> 00:21:20,280
hope and thanks in her eyes.

384
00:21:20,280 --> 00:21:21,330
I could never forget her.

385
00:21:21,330 --> 00:21:24,480
It sounds corny, but it isn't.

386
00:21:24,480 --> 00:21:26,430
And I didn't know
what that tulip really

387
00:21:26,430 --> 00:21:31,930
meant until years later when
another person, Luna Kaufman,

388
00:21:31,930 --> 00:21:33,540
who had been in
concentration camps,

389
00:21:33,540 --> 00:21:37,680
said the SS commanders
all had flowers.

390
00:21:37,680 --> 00:21:39,330
They had gardens.

391
00:21:39,330 --> 00:21:44,250
And after all, even a twig of
grass was life to us back then.

392
00:21:44,250 --> 00:21:46,680
And so actually, this
woman was giving me,

393
00:21:46,680 --> 00:21:49,800
as a representative of
the American soldier,

394
00:21:49,800 --> 00:21:53,220
the gift of life in
that faded tulip.

395
00:21:53,220 --> 00:21:57,120
And obviously, I keep telling
that beautiful story because

396
00:21:57,120 --> 00:21:58,680
of that woman, whoever she was.

397
00:21:58,680 --> 00:22:01,530

398
00:22:01,530 --> 00:22:06,340
It was a long time ago, and I
hope that people understand it.

399
00:22:06,340 --> 00:22:10,290
So in a sense, the
affirmation for life

400
00:22:10,290 --> 00:22:13,090
came from somebody who
had been through hell.

401
00:22:13,090 --> 00:22:13,590
Death.

402
00:22:13,590 --> 00:22:14,190
Through death.

403
00:22:14,190 --> 00:22:14,690

Yeah.

404

00:22:14,690 --> 00:22:17,550

405

00:22:17,550 --> 00:22:21,840

Was there anything
in your own reading

406

00:22:21,840 --> 00:22:23,940

or the briefings
that you received

407

00:22:23,940 --> 00:22:28,060

or any information that you
had gathered that prepared you?

408

00:22:28,060 --> 00:22:31,530

I know Ohrdruf was one
of the very first camps

409

00:22:31,530 --> 00:22:34,950

that was opened, and I'm sure
that you were among the first

410

00:22:34,950 --> 00:22:37,140

to see anything.

411

00:22:37,140 --> 00:22:38,640

Was there anything
that prepared you

412

00:22:38,640 --> 00:22:41,020

for this, anything
that could have?

413

00:22:41,020 --> 00:22:41,520

No.

414

00:22:41,520 --> 00:22:45,395

415

00:22:45,395 --> 00:22:47,670

I, of course, don't know
what the others, that is,

416

00:22:47,670 --> 00:22:50,460

the senior commanders, know.

417

00:22:50,460 --> 00:22:55,380

I have an idea now, just because
of Louis Reinstein's story,

418

00:22:55,380 --> 00:22:58,320

and he had been up there, that
is, the Supreme Headquarters.

419

00:22:58,320 --> 00:23:03,290

But we hadn't the slightest
idea what we were going to see.

420

00:23:03,290 --> 00:23:04,710

I remember the odor.

421

00:23:04,710 --> 00:23:08,580

I think every single one
of us talks about the odor.

422

00:23:08,580 --> 00:23:13,260

The odor of a battlefield and
the odor of every place we went

423

00:23:13,260 --> 00:23:18,630

during those 10 months of
war is identified by an odor,

424

00:23:18,630 --> 00:23:21,510

as different odors, but
this one was different,

425

00:23:21,510 --> 00:23:23,700

I can't understand why.

426

00:23:23,700 --> 00:23:25,320

History says that

you could smell it

427

00:23:25,320 --> 00:23:27,980
for two miles around the place.

428

00:23:27,980 --> 00:23:31,680
However, I remember that.

429

00:23:31,680 --> 00:23:34,260
I can still smell it.

430

00:23:34,260 --> 00:23:35,580
The odor of--

431

00:23:35,580 --> 00:23:37,500
The odor of that specific camp.

432

00:23:37,500 --> 00:23:40,470
And it's so different
from the regular odors

433

00:23:40,470 --> 00:23:43,740
that I experienced for
all those other months

434

00:23:43,740 --> 00:23:48,600
that it's the only odor
I can identify now.

435

00:23:48,600 --> 00:23:52,740
I describe it to the children,
or to the high school students,

436

00:23:52,740 --> 00:24:00,540
as a summer camp
trunk that's opened

437

00:24:00,540 --> 00:24:05,325
after being stowed with old
clothes for the entire time.

438

00:24:05,325 --> 00:24:07,950

439
00:24:07,950 --> 00:24:10,230
Formaldehyde.

440
00:24:10,230 --> 00:24:13,110
You remember that in
your biology classes.

441
00:24:13,110 --> 00:24:16,410
And just that word, putrid.

442
00:24:16,410 --> 00:24:19,070
And you combine it all,
and it's a heaviness

443
00:24:19,070 --> 00:24:24,630
that we dream about, and
that's what I remember.

444
00:24:24,630 --> 00:24:27,540
But none of us understood
what we were really seeing.

445
00:24:27,540 --> 00:24:29,070
And that's why I
think when you look

446
00:24:29,070 --> 00:24:33,900
at the pictures
of the liberators

447
00:24:33,900 --> 00:24:36,690
when they first get into
these camps, they're staring.

448
00:24:36,690 --> 00:24:38,610
That's the first ones
I'm talking about.

449
00:24:38,610 --> 00:24:41,880
And they're just staring,
and they don't show emotion.

450

00:24:41,880 --> 00:24:43,410

And that must be the reason.

451

00:24:43,410 --> 00:24:46,680

It was such a horrible shock.

452

00:24:46,680 --> 00:24:49,440

And no, we knew nothing.

453

00:24:49,440 --> 00:24:54,284

How did others in your battalion
respond, some of the other men?

454

00:24:54,284 --> 00:24:59,080

Were there any visible
reactions of emotion?

455

00:24:59,080 --> 00:25:05,410

They were all about the same as
me, that is, most of the people

456

00:25:05,410 --> 00:25:05,910

I knew.

457

00:25:05,910 --> 00:25:12,700

But we had a fair contingent of
Jews, and they were different.

458

00:25:12,700 --> 00:25:16,800

They had the same
emotions, and the emotions

459

00:25:16,800 --> 00:25:21,480

were acted out later in
anger against the Germans,

460

00:25:21,480 --> 00:25:24,540

and the Wehrmacht even,
and the SS of course,

461

00:25:24,540 --> 00:25:28,630

and acted out rather
forcibly, to say the least.

462
00:25:28,630 --> 00:25:30,720
But our Jewish
comrades seemed to cry.

463
00:25:30,720 --> 00:25:32,250
They did cry.

464
00:25:32,250 --> 00:25:37,350
And at first--
remember, this is 1945,

465
00:25:37,350 --> 00:25:40,950
and we were really in 1939,
because the other four

466
00:25:40,950 --> 00:25:44,307
years were in an army camp.

467
00:25:44,307 --> 00:25:46,140
So we didn't understand
each other too much,

468
00:25:46,140 --> 00:25:49,710
but they cried as if these
people were their own,

469
00:25:49,710 --> 00:25:52,500
and of course they were,
but we didn't realize that

470
00:25:52,500 --> 00:25:53,740
at that time.

471
00:25:53,740 --> 00:25:56,010
But yes, I remember that.

472
00:25:56,010 --> 00:25:59,160
And I remember because
one of them, a man,

473

00:25:59,160 --> 00:26:03,060
a private first class-- he
called himself Sol Tannenbaum

474

00:26:03,060 --> 00:26:04,630
from Hawthorne, I think it is.

475

00:26:04,630 --> 00:26:05,130
Fair Lawn.

476

00:26:05,130 --> 00:26:06,600
Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

477

00:26:06,600 --> 00:26:08,680
Just died.

478

00:26:08,680 --> 00:26:10,710
And I remember what
he said about--

479

00:26:10,710 --> 00:26:13,560
we had called him up from
another company, which

480

00:26:13,560 --> 00:26:16,830
was on our right flank,
because everybody knew

481

00:26:16,830 --> 00:26:19,140
that he understood Yiddish.

482

00:26:19,140 --> 00:26:22,260
And as you know,
back in the '30s,

483

00:26:22,260 --> 00:26:24,510
we all knew what Yiddish was.

484

00:26:24,510 --> 00:26:28,440
They lived around here, but
we didn't understand it.

485

00:26:28,440 --> 00:26:29,070

He did.

486

00:26:29,070 --> 00:26:30,750

So we called him

over so that he could

487

00:26:30,750 --> 00:26:34,410

talk to these few, few people.

488

00:26:34,410 --> 00:26:37,260

And he said that

they looked at him

489

00:26:37,260 --> 00:26:41,470

as if they were animals that

were going to be beaten again.

490

00:26:41,470 --> 00:26:42,270

Dead eyes.

491

00:26:42,270 --> 00:26:45,780

And finally, his Yiddish

and his uniform--

492

00:26:45,780 --> 00:26:47,370

they didn't know

what the uniform was,

493

00:26:47,370 --> 00:26:49,660

but they knew it wasn't German--

494

00:26:49,660 --> 00:26:52,410

sort of penetrated the

dullness of their minds,

495

00:26:52,410 --> 00:26:56,760

and they started to cry and they

realized they were liberated.

496

00:26:56,760 --> 00:27:04,850

So the memories are

the total memories.

497

00:27:04,850 --> 00:27:06,730

And fortunately,
we were together

498

00:27:06,730 --> 00:27:10,410

so long, our battalion was,
that we have our reunions,

499

00:27:10,410 --> 00:27:12,810

and those memories
are coming out now.

500

00:27:12,810 --> 00:27:16,830

Because we're so close after
three years of training,

501

00:27:16,830 --> 00:27:19,350

and then one year
of war, that we

502

00:27:19,350 --> 00:27:23,220

are truly close to each
other in a very intimate way

503

00:27:23,220 --> 00:27:25,470

that no one can
really understand,

504

00:27:25,470 --> 00:27:28,320

unless they've been through
it with the same people for so

505

00:27:28,320 --> 00:27:29,640

long.

506

00:27:29,640 --> 00:27:33,867

And that's how we now know
about our Jewish comrades

507

00:27:33,867 --> 00:27:34,825

and our other comrades.

508

00:27:34,825 --> 00:27:37,740

509

00:27:37,740 --> 00:27:40,650

Most of our people were
either regular Army,

510

00:27:40,650 --> 00:27:43,710

which means CCC camps,
and then the families

511

00:27:43,710 --> 00:27:48,360

couldn't take them because of
money so they joined the Army,

512

00:27:48,360 --> 00:27:50,467

or draftees.

513

00:27:50,467 --> 00:27:52,800

And most of the draftees came
from the Garment District,

514

00:27:52,800 --> 00:27:57,015

by the way, of New York City,
that first draft back in '41.

515

00:27:57,015 --> 00:28:01,970

516

00:28:01,970 --> 00:28:09,020

You already alluded, in
some degree, to the present,

517

00:28:09,020 --> 00:28:14,600

to speaking and
commemorating these events.

518

00:28:14,600 --> 00:28:20,360

In your own life, what
has changed for you,

519

00:28:20,360 --> 00:28:25,160
or what has been the effect
of what you witnessed

520
00:28:25,160 --> 00:28:28,280
in Ohrdruf and elsewhere?

521
00:28:28,280 --> 00:28:32,040
I suppose a dedication
from those early days

522
00:28:32,040 --> 00:28:38,930
my daughter talked
about, 1950 and '52, '53.

523
00:28:38,930 --> 00:28:42,980
I suppose it was starting
to gel, or even before then.

524
00:28:42,980 --> 00:28:44,630
I've been trying
to trace back, look

525
00:28:44,630 --> 00:28:47,780
backwards into my own past.

526
00:28:47,780 --> 00:28:51,260
Unfortunately, I save
things, save letters.

527
00:28:51,260 --> 00:28:55,660
And I see that I had
written, or other people

528
00:28:55,660 --> 00:29:00,530
had written, that I talked about
this as early as 1946 and '47

529
00:29:00,530 --> 00:29:04,730
to various people, who
commented on it 20 years later,

530
00:29:04,730 --> 00:29:06,390

15 years later.

531

00:29:06,390 --> 00:29:08,060

I know that my
friends thought of it.

532

00:29:08,060 --> 00:29:09,980

It was gelling.

533

00:29:09,980 --> 00:29:14,350

And as it gelled, as we
grew older and our children

534

00:29:14,350 --> 00:29:17,690

and the business of making
money to support them

535

00:29:17,690 --> 00:29:22,160

and that sort of thing,
that went on as usual

536

00:29:22,160 --> 00:29:23,360

with all of us.

537

00:29:23,360 --> 00:29:25,580

But also, whatever
was gelling inside

538

00:29:25,580 --> 00:29:28,550

of us seems to
have sprouted out.

539

00:29:28,550 --> 00:29:31,890

As far as I personally
am concerned,

540

00:29:31,890 --> 00:29:36,630

it's resulted in what
I call a brotherhood--

541

00:29:36,630 --> 00:29:40,710

a wish for and a fight for and
a I'll do anything I can to do

542
00:29:40,710 --> 00:29:41,430
it--

543
00:29:41,430 --> 00:29:45,000
a feeling of brotherhood
through strength, a brotherhood

544
00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:46,800
where we all can shake hands.

545
00:29:46,800 --> 00:29:51,410

546
00:29:51,410 --> 00:29:54,170
Not the silliness of saying
love, or anything like that,

547
00:29:54,170 --> 00:29:56,780
but mutual respect,
a mutual respect

548
00:29:56,780 --> 00:30:00,320
so that we can look
each other in the eye,

549
00:30:00,320 --> 00:30:05,120
sit down, have coffee, talk,
go into the most tragic

550
00:30:05,120 --> 00:30:07,100
or the happiest of subjects.

551
00:30:07,100 --> 00:30:11,850
And perhaps the
more we can do that,

552
00:30:11,850 --> 00:30:16,160
the less likely it is that
another Hitler or another

553
00:30:16,160 --> 00:30:21,080

dictator or tyrant who can
change opinions on peoples

554
00:30:21,080 --> 00:30:26,000
and call them subhuman,
as they call the Russians

555
00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:30,290
or the Polish, or non-humans,
as they call the Jews--

556
00:30:30,290 --> 00:30:33,920
it could never have happened,
or would never happen again.

557
00:30:33,920 --> 00:30:34,550
It's a wish.

558
00:30:34,550 --> 00:30:36,920
It's a dream, but that's what
happened, at least to me.

559
00:30:36,920 --> 00:30:40,262
So it took some time
before these ideas,

560
00:30:40,262 --> 00:30:42,095
these thoughts crystallized,
but eventually.

561
00:30:42,095 --> 00:30:42,680
Definitely.

562
00:30:42,680 --> 00:30:44,890
40 years, 35.

563
00:30:44,890 --> 00:30:45,750
Yeah.

564
00:30:45,750 --> 00:30:51,330
And I don't know why I'm
still searching to find out.

565

00:30:51,330 --> 00:30:52,920

I think we all are.

566

00:30:52,920 --> 00:30:55,370

Yeah.

567

00:30:55,370 --> 00:31:00,420

As you look back on the
history of those years

568

00:31:00,420 --> 00:31:07,920

and that whole period,
do you think that we--

569

00:31:07,920 --> 00:31:10,440

Americans, others.

570

00:31:10,440 --> 00:31:12,540

And I'm not talking
about the people alone,

571

00:31:12,540 --> 00:31:14,790

I'm talking about our leaders--

572

00:31:14,790 --> 00:31:19,800

that more could have been done,
or that not enough was done,

573

00:31:19,800 --> 00:31:22,740

or that perhaps
you feel otherwise?

574

00:31:22,740 --> 00:31:23,640

I don't know.

575

00:31:23,640 --> 00:31:27,480

I'd like to hear some of
your thoughts about that.

576

00:31:27,480 --> 00:31:28,300

That's interesting.

577

00:31:28,300 --> 00:31:31,260

And of course,
Crystal Night, we're

578

00:31:31,260 --> 00:31:35,460

celebrating an interfaith-- we
have an interfaith celebration

579

00:31:35,460 --> 00:31:43,410

or memorial next Sunday in
Morristown at the Presbyterian

580

00:31:43,410 --> 00:31:44,550

Church.

581

00:31:44,550 --> 00:31:48,870

And the co-chairs, one
is a rabbi from Toronto

582

00:31:48,870 --> 00:31:53,820

and the other is a
Methodist minister,

583

00:31:53,820 --> 00:31:57,600

who was a liberator of Dachau.

584

00:31:57,600 --> 00:32:05,520

And the importance of interfaith
brotherhood and Crystal Night,

585

00:32:05,520 --> 00:32:09,360

as I examined it in
my own mind, seems

586

00:32:09,360 --> 00:32:14,850

to direct me to your
question and the answer.

587

00:32:14,850 --> 00:32:18,840

If, after Crystal Night,
when I don't think

588

00:32:18,840 --> 00:32:21,330
many Jews had been taken yet--

589
00:32:21,330 --> 00:32:23,490
as a matter of fact,
I'm certain of it--

590
00:32:23,490 --> 00:32:27,870
most of the six
million were still

591
00:32:27,870 --> 00:32:30,570
living in their homes under
the conditions of life

592
00:32:30,570 --> 00:32:32,220
that they had
always experienced,

593
00:32:32,220 --> 00:32:35,597
wherever that might have been.

594
00:32:35,597 --> 00:32:36,555
Crystal Night occurred.

595
00:32:36,555 --> 00:32:39,960

596
00:32:39,960 --> 00:32:44,460
Our nations, our Christian
nations, of course

597
00:32:44,460 --> 00:32:45,660
they were very pious about.

598
00:32:45,660 --> 00:32:49,485

599
00:32:49,485 --> 00:32:53,040
They talked in the newspapers
about how dreadful it was,

600

00:32:53,040 --> 00:32:54,780
but there was no action.

601
00:32:54,780 --> 00:32:57,840
By action, I don't mean
fighting at that time.

602
00:32:57,840 --> 00:33:02,220
I mean no ambassador was
recalled from Germany

603
00:33:02,220 --> 00:33:05,470
and no one tried to boycott
Germany at the time.

604
00:33:05,470 --> 00:33:07,500
And I just wonder
sometimes what would

605
00:33:07,500 --> 00:33:10,830
have happened if we and
the British and the others

606
00:33:10,830 --> 00:33:15,000
had boycotted Germany, had
withdrawn our ambassadors?

607
00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:16,680
Would that have stopped Hitler?

608
00:33:16,680 --> 00:33:20,460
As they say, France,
back when the czar

609
00:33:20,460 --> 00:33:23,610
was taken, if France
had mobilized and sent

610
00:33:23,610 --> 00:33:26,040
some troops in,
Hitler had already

611
00:33:26,040 --> 00:33:29,470

planned to withdraw his,
and another instance

612
00:33:29,470 --> 00:33:30,660
might not be war.

613
00:33:30,660 --> 00:33:34,290
So therefore, I
think that, yes, I

614
00:33:34,290 --> 00:33:38,128
think that the proper courage,
the proper understanding--

615
00:33:38,128 --> 00:33:40,170
I think that's where we
lack it, because we're so

616
00:33:40,170 --> 00:33:42,870
fortunate being so far away--

617
00:33:42,870 --> 00:33:45,720
lack of understanding
of human tendencies,

618
00:33:45,720 --> 00:33:49,980
lack of understanding that
because we are different,

619
00:33:49,980 --> 00:33:54,900
each one of us comes from a
different culture background.

620
00:33:54,900 --> 00:33:57,930
That is, background going
back 100 years or 50 years,

621
00:33:57,930 --> 00:34:00,780
or whenever our families
took those brave

622
00:34:00,780 --> 00:34:05,080
men who came over here and

their women to start a new life.

623

00:34:05,080 --> 00:34:06,630

So therefore, we
can't understand

624

00:34:06,630 --> 00:34:08,400

these other countries as well.

625

00:34:08,400 --> 00:34:11,790

We don't understand
their thinking.

626

00:34:11,790 --> 00:34:12,810

I hope I've answered it.

627

00:34:12,810 --> 00:34:14,670

I think I've gone
around in a circle.

628

00:34:14,670 --> 00:34:16,170

No, you've answered it.

629

00:34:16,170 --> 00:34:17,130

Yeah.

630

00:34:17,130 --> 00:34:21,520

Is there anything that you
would like to say in conclusion?

631

00:34:21,520 --> 00:34:24,250

No, except I certainly thank
you for this opportunity.

632

00:34:24,250 --> 00:34:29,060

I think that all of us
should make such statements.

633

00:34:29,060 --> 00:34:31,230

The more, the merrier
because who knows

634

00:34:31,230 --> 00:34:33,320
what will happen in the future?

635
00:34:33,320 --> 00:34:35,460
And I think that
the regular American

636
00:34:35,460 --> 00:34:41,040
who talks from his heart can
have an effect in the future.

637
00:34:41,040 --> 00:34:43,530
I think your history and
your approach to history

638
00:34:43,530 --> 00:34:48,060
by doing this is
not only excellent,

639
00:34:48,060 --> 00:34:50,679
but is a godsend to the future.

640
00:34:50,679 --> 00:34:51,510
Thank you, sir.

641
00:34:51,510 --> 00:34:52,030
Thank you.

642
00:34:52,030 --> 00:34:54,390
I'm privileged to
have you say that.

643
00:34:54,390 --> 00:34:56,840
[MUSIC CONTINUING]

644
00:34:56,840 --> 00:35:25,000