

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:23,480

2

00:00:23,480 --> 00:00:24,870

Good afternoon.

3

00:00:24,870 --> 00:00:28,520

I'm Bernard Weinstein, director
of the Kean College Oral

4

00:00:28,520 --> 00:00:31,670

History Project
on the Holocaust.

5

00:00:31,670 --> 00:00:34,520

Today, I have the privilege
of interviewing A. Kevin

6

00:00:34,520 --> 00:00:37,400

Quinn, a liberator of Dachau.

7

00:00:37,400 --> 00:00:39,170

Mr. Quinn, welcome.

8

00:00:39,170 --> 00:00:40,100

Thank you, Doctor.

9

00:00:40,100 --> 00:00:46,130

I'd like to begin by
asking you to tell us

10

00:00:46,130 --> 00:00:52,160

a little bit about where
you were and what you saw.

11

00:00:52,160 --> 00:00:55,820

And then we'll go back and talk
a little about your earlier

12

00:00:55,820 --> 00:01:00,500

life and what led up to

your being at Dachau.

13

00:01:00,500 --> 00:01:05,870

Yes, the thing that
involves me in the Holocaust

14

00:01:05,870 --> 00:01:09,860

is my experience at
Dachau, at a concentration

15

00:01:09,860 --> 00:01:19,250

camp, that was liberated on the
29th of April, I believe, 1945.

16

00:01:19,250 --> 00:01:23,790

And five days before that I had
been sent down from Belgium.

17

00:01:23,790 --> 00:01:26,493

The war was over, and I was so.

18

00:01:26,493 --> 00:01:30,620

I was sent down to France,
formed into a team,

19

00:01:30,620 --> 00:01:33,440

attached to the 45th
Infantry Division, which

20

00:01:33,440 --> 00:01:36,920

was slated for Dachau.

21

00:01:36,920 --> 00:01:39,610

That's all the
preparation I had.

22

00:01:39,610 --> 00:01:43,190

I was sent in with
the combat troops,

23

00:01:43,190 --> 00:01:51,020

found indescribable
things, terrible things.

24
00:01:51,020 --> 00:01:55,580
Unfortunately, I was not able
to get in and to get out.

25
00:01:55,580 --> 00:01:58,250
I was assigned a
duty to remain there.

26
00:01:58,250 --> 00:02:04,760
And I remained at the
camp for six weeks or so.

27
00:02:04,760 --> 00:02:06,540
Who assigned you this duty?

28
00:02:06,540 --> 00:02:07,040
Pardon.

29
00:02:07,040 --> 00:02:08,449
Who assigned you this duty?

30
00:02:08,449 --> 00:02:09,979
Was it--

31
00:02:09,979 --> 00:02:12,980
Well, I was under the command
of the Seventh Army, General

32
00:02:12,980 --> 00:02:16,940
Patch's army, which pretty
soon became the Third

33
00:02:16,940 --> 00:02:18,390
Army of General Patton.

34
00:02:18,390 --> 00:02:21,590
They switched areas.

35
00:02:21,590 --> 00:02:27,980
And Third Army was really in
that central part of Bavaria,

36
00:02:27,980 --> 00:02:30,950
set up military
government for Bavaria,

37
00:02:30,950 --> 00:02:32,990
take care of the occupation.

38
00:02:32,990 --> 00:02:37,100
And I was assigned to the Office
of Education and Religious

39
00:02:37,100 --> 00:02:41,480
Affairs in Munich
for all of Bavaria.

40
00:02:41,480 --> 00:02:43,190
Was there anything
in your background

41
00:02:43,190 --> 00:02:46,460
that made that
assignment appropriate?

42
00:02:46,460 --> 00:02:50,240
Yes, I think so and
part of the reason

43
00:02:50,240 --> 00:02:53,830
I think that I was
sent into Dachau too.

44
00:02:53,830 --> 00:02:59,300
Starting In about 1936,
I started to study--

45
00:02:59,300 --> 00:03:03,410
became a member of the Dominican
Order, order of preachers,

46
00:03:03,410 --> 00:03:05,540
and started to study
for the priesthood,

47
00:03:05,540 --> 00:03:11,000
started in '36 up
to '41 when I left.

48
00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:14,210
And, of course, among other
things, philosophy, theology,

49
00:03:14,210 --> 00:03:16,010
and language and
whatnot, a good deal

50
00:03:16,010 --> 00:03:18,680
of Latin, a good
deal of knowledge

51
00:03:18,680 --> 00:03:22,310
about the organization
of the Church.

52
00:03:22,310 --> 00:03:30,193
I found that I used my Latin
verbally, vocally, in Dachau,

53
00:03:30,193 --> 00:03:31,610
more than I thought,
because there

54
00:03:31,610 --> 00:03:36,020
were a number of priests there,
still there, and many of them

55
00:03:36,020 --> 00:03:36,710
were Polish.

56
00:03:36,710 --> 00:03:38,570
And that's the only way
I could communicate.

57
00:03:38,570 --> 00:03:41,580
That may have been in the
mind of somebody who said,

58
00:03:41,580 --> 00:03:43,070
well he'll be able
to talk to them.

59
00:03:43,070 --> 00:03:46,010
So send Quinn along
with the other people.

60
00:03:46,010 --> 00:03:47,410
So you talk to them in Latin?

61
00:03:47,410 --> 00:03:49,340
Yeah.

62
00:03:49,340 --> 00:03:50,878
Well, when you study
for Dominicans,

63
00:03:50,878 --> 00:03:51,920
you learn a lot of Latin.

64
00:03:51,920 --> 00:04:00,330
I had nine years, I
think, Virgil, onwards.

65
00:04:00,330 --> 00:04:01,910
So that was in my background.

66
00:04:01,910 --> 00:04:05,840
Also, the assignment as
Religious Affairs Officer

67
00:04:05,840 --> 00:04:10,730
for Bavaria, that kind of
an aftermath of my Dachau

68
00:04:10,730 --> 00:04:16,410
experience in a
way, my job, meant

69
00:04:16,410 --> 00:04:19,380

that I the liaison
between the American

70
00:04:19,380 --> 00:04:24,720
Army and any religious
leader in Bavaria.

71
00:04:24,720 --> 00:04:27,240

72
00:04:27,240 --> 00:04:31,650
Now, there were hardly any
Jewish religious leaders left.

73
00:04:31,650 --> 00:04:35,550
But I had a cardinal in
Munich, Roman Catholic

74
00:04:35,550 --> 00:04:39,750
bishops to deal with, an
evangelical Lutherans.

75
00:04:39,750 --> 00:04:44,490
And a number of
those kinds of clergy

76
00:04:44,490 --> 00:04:47,520
had been in and out of camps.

77
00:04:47,520 --> 00:04:50,760
Some in and never came out.

78
00:04:50,760 --> 00:04:55,770
So I had a job of
dealing with them.

79
00:04:55,770 --> 00:05:00,090
And I'm sorry to tell
you that one of my jobs

80
00:05:00,090 --> 00:05:05,910
was to do whatever I
could to get released--

81
00:05:05,910 --> 00:05:07,800
it's nice way of putting it--

82
00:05:07,800 --> 00:05:13,680
from their churches and their
pulpits of some clergymen who

83
00:05:13,680 --> 00:05:18,150
were top level Nazis.

84
00:05:18,150 --> 00:05:22,280
I didn't like that,
but I did that.

85
00:05:22,280 --> 00:05:24,030
Another reason I
guess I was there,

86
00:05:24,030 --> 00:05:26,520
they figured I would know
how to talk to a bishop.

87
00:05:26,520 --> 00:05:31,680
I would know how to talk
to a cardinal, which I did.

88
00:05:31,680 --> 00:05:37,230
So you see, my background and
studying for the priesthood

89
00:05:37,230 --> 00:05:42,150
and knowing Latin had something
to do with my being in Dachau.

90
00:05:42,150 --> 00:05:43,920
And I'm sure it
had something to do

91
00:05:43,920 --> 00:05:51,060
with my having that job as
a young captain in Munich.

92

00:05:51,060 --> 00:05:52,260

Can we go back a little bit.

93

00:05:52,260 --> 00:05:56,170

Could you talk something
about your background,

94

00:05:56,170 --> 00:05:59,220

your own your background
that led you perhaps

95

00:05:59,220 --> 00:06:02,610

into the Dominican Order.

96

00:06:02,610 --> 00:06:05,970

Yeah, I think I can.

97

00:06:05,970 --> 00:06:10,560

I was born in New
York City in 1918,

98

00:06:10,560 --> 00:06:15,870

the son of immigrant Irish
people from County Sligo.

99

00:06:15,870 --> 00:06:22,410

And I grew up in a
tenement, among poor people

100

00:06:22,410 --> 00:06:23,970

of every kind.

101

00:06:23,970 --> 00:06:27,690

I was familiar with Jews,
with Germans, with Italians,

102

00:06:27,690 --> 00:06:30,180

with Greeks, and with Irish.

103

00:06:30,180 --> 00:06:31,800

What part of New
York did you live in?

104
00:06:31,800 --> 00:06:32,430
The Bronx.

105
00:06:32,430 --> 00:06:36,240

106
00:06:36,240 --> 00:06:39,300
Yeah, entirely in the Bronx.

107
00:06:39,300 --> 00:06:43,980
So growing up there, finding
out when I became an adolescent,

108
00:06:43,980 --> 00:06:47,400
that I had two
brothers also studying

109
00:06:47,400 --> 00:06:52,380
for the priesthood and one whom
I admired very much, Jim, who

110
00:06:52,380 --> 00:06:57,600
became a Marine chaplain during
the war, he became a Dominican.

111
00:06:57,600 --> 00:06:59,520
And I visited the--

112
00:06:59,520 --> 00:07:00,750
we don't like monastery.

113
00:07:00,750 --> 00:07:03,390
We say priory.

114
00:07:03,390 --> 00:07:08,490
And I thought the life of
study and work and recreation

115
00:07:08,490 --> 00:07:09,630
was great.

116

00:07:09,630 --> 00:07:12,480

And I decided I wanted
to become a Dominican.

117

00:07:12,480 --> 00:07:14,430

Were your brothers
older than you?

118

00:07:14,430 --> 00:07:18,870

Yes, I am the seventh
son of a seventh son,

119

00:07:18,870 --> 00:07:25,800

which to an Irish person means
I'm in for a lot of luck.

120

00:07:25,800 --> 00:07:28,170

Let's hope so.

121

00:07:28,170 --> 00:07:30,780

Yeah, go ahead.

122

00:07:30,780 --> 00:07:34,380

Well, at about the time
I made my decision,

123

00:07:34,380 --> 00:07:37,080

I was in high school
at Power Memorial,

124

00:07:37,080 --> 00:07:39,600

which became a big
basketball power,

125

00:07:39,600 --> 00:07:41,670

some people will remember.

126

00:07:41,670 --> 00:07:44,130

And the teachers were
Irish, every one of them,

127

00:07:44,130 --> 00:07:46,200

128
00:07:46,200 --> 00:07:49,350
And they were fanatic
about two things--

129
00:07:49,350 --> 00:07:54,900
English, drama,
poetry, everything

130
00:07:54,900 --> 00:07:59,670
along that line, public
speaking, what not,

131
00:07:59,670 --> 00:08:03,570
a great deal of
language, science, also.

132
00:08:03,570 --> 00:08:07,030
But wonderful
religious teachers.

133
00:08:07,030 --> 00:08:11,310
And although I thought
that they would

134
00:08:11,310 --> 00:08:13,920
like me to join their order--

135
00:08:13,920 --> 00:08:16,110
not priests, they're brothers--

136
00:08:16,110 --> 00:08:19,650
and become a teacher,
they encouraged me

137
00:08:19,650 --> 00:08:24,720
when they found out that I was
headed toward an order which

138
00:08:24,720 --> 00:08:27,270
my brother belonged to.

139

00:08:27,270 --> 00:08:30,900

And I had seen the
life that they lived.

140

00:08:30,900 --> 00:08:34,150

I became an admirer of Thomas
Aquinas, who was a Dominican.

141

00:08:34,150 --> 00:08:36,690

So next thing you
know, I'm a Dominican.

142

00:08:36,690 --> 00:08:38,909

Was it something your
parents wanted you to do?

143

00:08:38,909 --> 00:08:41,510

Absolutely not.

144

00:08:41,510 --> 00:08:45,180

It said about-- the
reason I'm saying emphatic

145

00:08:45,180 --> 00:08:48,630

is that there's a saying
that an Irish mother always

146

00:08:48,630 --> 00:08:53,880

wants her sons, all of them if
possible, to become priests.

147

00:08:53,880 --> 00:08:56,010

Not my mother.

148

00:08:56,010 --> 00:08:58,710

She was smart enough to realize
that that's not something

149

00:08:58,710 --> 00:09:01,006

that you push anybody to.

150

00:09:01,006 --> 00:09:02,410

They do it.

151

00:09:02,410 --> 00:09:05,910

As she said, God calls, not me.

152

00:09:05,910 --> 00:09:11,620

Not one word to push me in and
not one tear when I come out.

153

00:09:11,620 --> 00:09:16,170

Everybody should have a
mother and a father like that.

154

00:09:16,170 --> 00:09:22,080

So the Dominicans sent
me to Providence College.

155

00:09:22,080 --> 00:09:26,250

So I studied over with the
regular college students.

156

00:09:26,250 --> 00:09:29,610

And then I came back
after my last class

157

00:09:29,610 --> 00:09:33,000

and had four more hours.

158

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:37,230

That's how I got my theology,
my canon law, my moral theology,

159

00:09:37,230 --> 00:09:43,980

my dogmatic, everything that
you can think of for four years.

160

00:09:43,980 --> 00:09:48,720

Sent then and, what we call,
the reception of the habit.

161

00:09:48,720 --> 00:09:51,870

They give you the habit
that Dominic designed back

162
00:09:51,870 --> 00:09:54,120
in 1200 something.

163
00:09:54,120 --> 00:09:56,010
They put that habit on you.

164
00:09:56,010 --> 00:09:59,700
And they put you through
a period of trial

165
00:09:59,700 --> 00:10:03,000
of a year, called a novitiate.

166
00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:06,060
You obey the rule.

167
00:10:06,060 --> 00:10:08,310
You follow the
constitution of the order.

168
00:10:08,310 --> 00:10:10,350
He had one.

169
00:10:10,350 --> 00:10:12,720
And you try out that
life, and see if you

170
00:10:12,720 --> 00:10:15,100
want to do it all your life.

171
00:10:15,100 --> 00:10:20,430
And if you find that if
you don't, you're suited,

172
00:10:20,430 --> 00:10:26,490
God tells you in some way, or
you become convinced, whatever,

173
00:10:26,490 --> 00:10:29,700
then you are free to leave.

174

00:10:29,700 --> 00:10:31,260

Nothing holding you back.

175

00:10:31,260 --> 00:10:35,430

If you stay that
full year and take

176

00:10:35,430 --> 00:10:40,650

vows, then you are bound by a
promise to God for three years.

177

00:10:40,650 --> 00:10:43,290

I did not even take those vows.

178

00:10:43,290 --> 00:10:46,530

I know I could go.

179

00:10:46,530 --> 00:10:49,080

However, those
men and that order

180

00:10:49,080 --> 00:10:55,170

and the writings of people like
Aquinas left a mark upon me.

181

00:10:55,170 --> 00:10:55,980

They do.

182

00:10:55,980 --> 00:11:00,080

So if I can jump ahead
a little, Doctor.

183

00:11:00,080 --> 00:11:00,580

Sure.

184

00:11:00,580 --> 00:11:03,800

185

00:11:03,800 --> 00:11:06,210

I don't know how
this came to be.

186

00:11:06,210 --> 00:11:11,690

But when I was in
Belgium, I think,

187

00:11:11,690 --> 00:11:16,770

around the time of the Bulge,
I got a letter from my brother,

188

00:11:16,770 --> 00:11:22,070

who was a Marine Corps
chaplain in the Pacific.

189

00:11:22,070 --> 00:11:25,710

He was on Iwo Jima
and other places.

190

00:11:25,710 --> 00:11:27,000

He sent me a letter.

191

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:32,420

And he said, if
you get to Germany,

192

00:11:32,420 --> 00:11:35,420

would you look up
one German Dominican

193

00:11:35,420 --> 00:11:39,020

whose brother is in the USA?

194

00:11:39,020 --> 00:11:41,810

And the name of this
German Dominican,

195

00:11:41,810 --> 00:11:46,010

who was considered non
grata by the Nazis,

196

00:11:46,010 --> 00:11:48,610

because he was a
philosopher, theologian,

197

00:11:48,610 --> 00:11:52,490
they didn't like what he
wrote, his name is Roth--

198
00:11:52,490 --> 00:11:54,590
R-O-T-H-- Hyacinth Roth.

199
00:11:54,590 --> 00:11:57,020
He is the second
man I met in Dachau.

200
00:11:57,020 --> 00:11:59,650

201
00:11:59,650 --> 00:12:03,640
Like a miracle, I
met him in Dachau,

202
00:12:03,640 --> 00:12:09,430
the second person, a man
who I think is a saint.

203
00:12:09,430 --> 00:12:16,990
He had been there since 1937
in bad shape, still alive.

204
00:12:16,990 --> 00:12:23,346
And when we came and
subdued the guards--

205
00:12:23,346 --> 00:12:27,030
a nice way of putting it--

206
00:12:27,030 --> 00:12:33,150
and the war ended, I had left.

207
00:12:33,150 --> 00:12:38,070
I was told that Dachau was
turned into a camp for SS.

208
00:12:38,070 --> 00:12:41,620

209

00:12:41,620 --> 00:12:46,000

And Father Roth volunteered
to be their chaplain.

210

00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:54,460

And I thought anybody who
could do that must be a great,

211

00:12:54,460 --> 00:12:56,890

and I suppose I have
to say forgiving man.

212

00:12:56,890 --> 00:12:59,890

Maybe he forgave.

213

00:12:59,890 --> 00:13:02,410

Not much I have to forgive.

214

00:13:02,410 --> 00:13:07,020

Nobody shot me or hurt
me or sent my father off

215

00:13:07,020 --> 00:13:10,030

to an oven in that sense.

216

00:13:10,030 --> 00:13:11,350

But he had suffered.

217

00:13:11,350 --> 00:13:14,290

He could do that.

218

00:13:14,290 --> 00:13:21,460

There are incidents like that
burn that whole period of time,

219

00:13:21,460 --> 00:13:26,560

that six weeks, deeply upon me.

220

00:13:26,560 --> 00:13:29,210

I can't say I was shocked.

221

00:13:29,210 --> 00:13:31,690

I can't say I
didn't know anything

222

00:13:31,690 --> 00:13:33,010

about what I would find.

223

00:13:33,010 --> 00:13:36,130

But I didn't know
it as a witness,

224

00:13:36,130 --> 00:13:42,400

as somebody who saw the
remains of what happened

225

00:13:42,400 --> 00:13:45,870

and talk to people.

226

00:13:45,870 --> 00:13:50,860

So I can't say that
I was merely shocked.

227

00:13:50,860 --> 00:13:56,170

I was absolutely
devastated emotionally.

228

00:13:56,170 --> 00:13:57,520

But I was an officer.

229

00:13:57,520 --> 00:13:58,720

I had a command.

230

00:13:58,720 --> 00:14:00,160

I had a job to do.

231

00:14:00,160 --> 00:14:02,890

And I had to keep my head.

232

00:14:02,890 --> 00:14:06,610

One of the things I wanted to
do that very first day, the very

233

00:14:06,610 --> 00:14:11,800
first hour, was to locate
two men that they told

234
00:14:11,800 --> 00:14:13,780
me were in that
camp and they wanted

235
00:14:13,780 --> 00:14:21,040
them located as fast as possible
and saved from some vengeance.

236
00:14:21,040 --> 00:14:23,353
And one was Pastor
Niemoller, who was

237
00:14:23,353 --> 00:14:24,520
supposed to have been there.

238
00:14:24,520 --> 00:14:28,390
And the other one
was Leon Blum, who

239
00:14:28,390 --> 00:14:32,590
I believe had been premier
of the Republic of France.

240
00:14:32,590 --> 00:14:34,845
And that was my job.

241
00:14:34,845 --> 00:14:36,220
As a matter of
fact, that's how I

242
00:14:36,220 --> 00:14:40,210
bumped into people like
Father Roth, Hyacinth Roth.

243
00:14:40,210 --> 00:14:43,600
And as about Niemoller,
and they said he'd gone.

244
00:14:43,600 --> 00:14:46,880

And they had moved
Niemoller and Blum out.

245
00:14:46,880 --> 00:14:50,110
So I didn't find them there.

246
00:14:50,110 --> 00:14:52,750

247
00:14:52,750 --> 00:15:00,280
But then after the
first hour or two,

248
00:15:00,280 --> 00:15:09,520
no, less than that, I realized
that we had pandemonium.

249
00:15:09,520 --> 00:15:13,240
People who knew who we
were, knew they were free,

250
00:15:13,240 --> 00:15:19,960
and they were running
all about weeping.

251
00:15:19,960 --> 00:15:23,020
Some, I'm afraid, falling
down and apparently dying

252
00:15:23,020 --> 00:15:25,810
on the spot.

253
00:15:25,810 --> 00:15:31,030
I knew that I needed
information about the camp.

254
00:15:31,030 --> 00:15:34,360
And I wanted to save some
of the guards who were left

255
00:15:34,360 --> 00:15:37,810
from being shot by our men.

256

00:15:37,810 --> 00:15:40,810
And I could not control our men.

257

00:15:40,810 --> 00:15:43,150
The men I had, I could
not control them.

258

00:15:43,150 --> 00:15:46,372
How many men were
under your command?

259

00:15:46,372 --> 00:15:49,990
Oh, I think at that time I had
with me only about six people.

260

00:15:49,990 --> 00:15:52,270
One man I remember, McGlinchey.

261

00:15:52,270 --> 00:15:55,920
Well, he was out of his head.

262

00:15:55,920 --> 00:15:58,600
He had a Thomson submachine gun.

263

00:15:58,600 --> 00:16:01,960
I had a 45 pistol.

264

00:16:01,960 --> 00:16:07,430
And I would have
used it if I had too.

265

00:16:07,430 --> 00:16:12,700
But it's important to get
prisoners for information,

266

00:16:12,700 --> 00:16:15,370
even then, especially then.

267

00:16:15,370 --> 00:16:18,690

268

00:16:18,690 --> 00:16:21,900
But a lot of them
died, because they

269
00:16:21,900 --> 00:16:23,940
were shot down by
American troops who

270
00:16:23,940 --> 00:16:26,790
would not listen to me.

271
00:16:26,790 --> 00:16:28,680
They wouldn't have
listened to George Patton.

272
00:16:28,680 --> 00:16:31,480

273
00:16:31,480 --> 00:16:35,560
So although I was emotionally--

274
00:16:35,560 --> 00:16:38,300
I can't say upset, as if I
didn't know what I was doing.

275
00:16:38,300 --> 00:16:40,280
I did know what I was doing.

276
00:16:40,280 --> 00:16:41,470
But I was shaken.

277
00:16:41,470 --> 00:16:43,520
Let's put it that way.

278
00:16:43,520 --> 00:16:47,050
But the men were either
less prepared for that,

279
00:16:47,050 --> 00:16:50,110
or maybe they didn't
have a the duties

280

00:16:50,110 --> 00:16:52,090
that I had that kind
of keep you going

281
00:16:52,090 --> 00:16:54,880
when you have a job to do.

282
00:16:54,880 --> 00:16:57,820
But they were--
around me anyway--

283
00:16:57,820 --> 00:17:01,930
uncontrollable,
absolutely uncontrollable.

284
00:17:01,930 --> 00:17:06,849
If we can backtrack a little
bit to the beginning of the war,

285
00:17:06,849 --> 00:17:10,150
the period of the
war, did you get out

286
00:17:10,150 --> 00:17:13,329
of the Dominican
Order at the time

287
00:17:13,329 --> 00:17:18,910
of the American involvement
in World War II or before or--

288
00:17:18,910 --> 00:17:21,640
Just before.

289
00:17:21,640 --> 00:17:25,300
If I remember, Pearl Harbor
that was December '41?

290
00:17:25,300 --> 00:17:26,950
Yes.

291
00:17:26,950 --> 00:17:29,380
And I know the very day

I left the Dominican was

292

00:17:29,380 --> 00:17:35,110
on the 14th of August 1941,
because the 15th of August

293

00:17:35,110 --> 00:17:36,850
would have been
the taking of vows.

294

00:17:36,850 --> 00:17:39,640
That's why I'm sure.

295

00:17:39,640 --> 00:17:46,840
And I left, went home,
went looking for a job.

296

00:17:46,840 --> 00:17:50,860
Figured I would join the army
or something pretty soon.

297

00:17:50,860 --> 00:17:54,430
Got a job teaching
at Power Memorial.

298

00:17:54,430 --> 00:17:59,980
And I taught Latin and French.

299

00:17:59,980 --> 00:18:06,010
Joined the Army finally then
about a year later, 1942.

300

00:18:06,010 --> 00:18:09,040
Put into the Signal
Corps as a private.

301

00:18:09,040 --> 00:18:12,160
And started to crawl my way
up to officer candidate school

302

00:18:12,160 --> 00:18:20,380
and get a commission in
1943 in the Signal Corps.

303
00:18:20,380 --> 00:18:23,980
And all my military
service on the continent

304
00:18:23,980 --> 00:18:30,880
of Europe from 1944 to
1946 didn't involve one

305
00:18:30,880 --> 00:18:33,400
communication Signal Corps job.

306
00:18:33,400 --> 00:18:35,950
It was always something else--

307
00:18:35,950 --> 00:18:40,780
military government,
occupation duties,

308
00:18:40,780 --> 00:18:42,580
assignment to
infantry divisions,

309
00:18:42,580 --> 00:18:45,880
like this assignment that
I spoke of, the 45th.

310
00:18:45,880 --> 00:18:49,270

311
00:18:49,270 --> 00:18:51,610
I went from Normandy--

312
00:18:51,610 --> 00:18:59,050
not from D-day, thank God, but
from 10 or 14 days after D-day

313
00:18:59,050 --> 00:19:01,930
through all the
Normandy campaigns.

314
00:19:01,930 --> 00:19:05,950

Served with the French
Armored Division at one time.

315
00:19:05,950 --> 00:19:06,970
Up into Belgium.

316
00:19:06,970 --> 00:19:09,850
Got caught in the Bulge.

317
00:19:09,850 --> 00:19:13,280
Got out somehow.

318
00:19:13,280 --> 00:19:23,290
And then about early April
1945, pulled out of First Army

319
00:19:23,290 --> 00:19:26,530
up north in Belgium.

320
00:19:26,530 --> 00:19:32,620
Sent the French, become a
member of a team, which I later

321
00:19:32,620 --> 00:19:36,940
found out was called
a Dachau Attachment.

322
00:19:36,940 --> 00:19:39,640
So I was combat trained.

323
00:19:39,640 --> 00:19:41,170
Signal Corps men are.

324
00:19:41,170 --> 00:19:43,810
They're trained to
fight as infantry.

325
00:19:43,810 --> 00:19:47,180
I knew weapons and
how to use them.

326
00:19:47,180 --> 00:19:49,690

So every time I got
a new assignment

327
00:19:49,690 --> 00:19:53,620
to an infantry division, I
knew I might have to fight.

328
00:19:53,620 --> 00:19:57,430
And I thought when I
was sent to the 45th,

329
00:19:57,430 --> 00:19:59,680
I would have some
kind of a mission that

330
00:19:59,680 --> 00:20:03,400
might involve being a
soldier, an infantryman.

331
00:20:03,400 --> 00:20:07,360
But then I found out it
was a liberation team.

332
00:20:07,360 --> 00:20:09,970
We didn't call it liberation.

333
00:20:09,970 --> 00:20:15,820
Liberator is a name given to
us, maybe more than we deserved,

334
00:20:15,820 --> 00:20:17,110
later.

335
00:20:17,110 --> 00:20:18,970
Later.

336
00:20:18,970 --> 00:20:21,400
People will say to me,
you're a liberator.

337
00:20:21,400 --> 00:20:23,890
At that time I didn't
feel like a liberator.

338
00:20:23,890 --> 00:20:27,740

339
00:20:27,740 --> 00:20:32,390
I felt, though, I was convinced,
not just emotionally, but up

340
00:20:32,390 --> 00:20:37,880
here, that what we
were dealing with,

341
00:20:37,880 --> 00:20:43,490
that whole system of
thought or lack of thought,

342
00:20:43,490 --> 00:20:46,400
whatever you want to call
it that the Nazis had,

343
00:20:46,400 --> 00:20:47,420
were very evil.

344
00:20:47,420 --> 00:20:49,280
It was very malicious.

345
00:20:49,280 --> 00:20:54,050
It was a distortion
of human reason

346
00:20:54,050 --> 00:20:59,620
and a viewing of
people as Untermensch,

347
00:20:59,620 --> 00:21:08,650
as being not inhuman, but
sub-human, that I knew about.

348
00:21:08,650 --> 00:21:11,590
The Dominicans told me that.

349
00:21:11,590 --> 00:21:13,940

Yes, I was well prepared
from that point of view.

350
00:21:13,940 --> 00:21:22,450
So I went in with kind
of assurance in my mind

351
00:21:22,450 --> 00:21:25,220
that whatever I was doing,
it was a good thing to do.

352
00:21:25,220 --> 00:21:27,430
And I hope I'd be
able to match up.

353
00:21:27,430 --> 00:21:35,890
Did the Dominican Order teach
about the nature of Nazism,

354
00:21:35,890 --> 00:21:38,740
of what it was--

355
00:21:38,740 --> 00:21:40,300
Well, they did me.

356
00:21:40,300 --> 00:21:44,680
And that was between the
years I was a Providence,

357
00:21:44,680 --> 00:21:52,350
for example, '36 to '40,
before I went into novitiate,

358
00:21:52,350 --> 00:21:54,610
the habit, four years.

359
00:21:54,610 --> 00:21:55,180
Oh, yes.

360
00:21:55,180 --> 00:21:57,350
Oh, yes.

361

00:21:57,350 --> 00:22:03,040

Remember, the Dominican
Order is worldwide order.

362

00:22:03,040 --> 00:22:09,040

In a way, I'm proud to say that
number of priests sent to camps

363

00:22:09,040 --> 00:22:12,370

or punished otherwise
were Dominican theologians

364

00:22:12,370 --> 00:22:14,650

and philosophers.

365

00:22:14,650 --> 00:22:17,590

That's what happened to Roth.

366

00:22:17,590 --> 00:22:20,230

He didn't go out
and carry a placard

367

00:22:20,230 --> 00:22:22,750

or denounce Goebbels or Goering.

368

00:22:22,750 --> 00:22:24,820

He wrote books.

369

00:22:24,820 --> 00:22:27,400

And he preached.

370

00:22:27,400 --> 00:22:29,620

And as a philosopher,
when he wrote,

371

00:22:29,620 --> 00:22:35,290

it was for educated
people that he

372

00:22:35,290 --> 00:22:47,200

wanted to get to point out that
kind of code or way of life,

373

00:22:47,200 --> 00:22:53,410

culture, that the Nazis
were trying to impose

374

00:22:53,410 --> 00:23:00,250

was in essence
wrong, irrational.

375

00:23:00,250 --> 00:23:02,920

And that's what a
philosopher should do.

376

00:23:02,920 --> 00:23:06,640

He finds anything irrational,
even though he might like it,

377

00:23:06,640 --> 00:23:09,950

but it's irrational, he
will have to point it out.

378

00:23:09,950 --> 00:23:12,550

And so I had that, thank God.

379

00:23:12,550 --> 00:23:17,065

I had Dominicans who were German
teaching me at Providence.

380

00:23:17,065 --> 00:23:19,270

I also had some Italian--

381

00:23:19,270 --> 00:23:23,680

Were these refugees from
Hitler or had they come here--

382

00:23:23,680 --> 00:23:25,690

No, I don't think
any of them were.

383

00:23:25,690 --> 00:23:30,940

I don't recall anyone who
was, not at that time anyway.

384

00:23:30,940 --> 00:23:33,860

May have been and I
might not have known it.

385

00:23:33,860 --> 00:23:36,260

But I don't recall that any was.

386

00:23:36,260 --> 00:23:39,910

I met a Father Rubia
who was Italian.

387

00:23:39,910 --> 00:23:42,010

Father Schmidt who was German.

388

00:23:42,010 --> 00:23:47,800

And they kept, as we say
sometimes in the Church,

389

00:23:47,800 --> 00:23:53,915

keep your eye on the Bible and
on the daily newspaper also.

390

00:23:53,915 --> 00:23:57,160

That's why I tried
to keep up with both.

391

00:23:57,160 --> 00:24:00,550

No, I thank God for what
those men did for me.

392

00:24:00,550 --> 00:24:03,340

393

00:24:03,340 --> 00:24:06,310

I'm not I'm not asking you this
question to put you on the spot

394

00:24:06,310 --> 00:24:08,120

or to embarrass you
or anything like that.

395

00:24:08,120 --> 00:24:11,530

But in retrospect,

do you think now

396

00:24:11,530 --> 00:24:14,500

that you were perhaps
better informed

397

00:24:14,500 --> 00:24:17,440

than some of your fellow
officers about the nature--

398

00:24:17,440 --> 00:24:18,550

Yes, I know I was.

399

00:24:18,550 --> 00:24:20,140

I get into arguments.

400

00:24:20,140 --> 00:24:23,440

And I couldn't
understand why they

401

00:24:23,440 --> 00:24:25,060

would say what they would say.

402

00:24:25,060 --> 00:24:27,580

And pretty soon, it sunk in.

403

00:24:27,580 --> 00:24:30,680

Nobody had told them.

404

00:24:30,680 --> 00:24:33,070

I don't remember in this
country up until the time

405

00:24:33,070 --> 00:24:34,990

I went overseas--

406

00:24:34,990 --> 00:24:40,910

went overseas in 1944
on Lincoln's birthday.

407

00:24:40,910 --> 00:24:45,050

408
00:24:45,050 --> 00:24:50,140
And even when I got to
England, American officers,

409
00:24:50,140 --> 00:25:00,450
some were acquainted,
knowledgeable, somewhat,

410
00:25:00,450 --> 00:25:04,440
about what I call the
nature of this thing that

411
00:25:04,440 --> 00:25:07,950
had taken over in Europe,
pretty much taken over.

412
00:25:07,950 --> 00:25:11,400

413
00:25:11,400 --> 00:25:14,380
But-- now this is hindsight.

414
00:25:14,380 --> 00:25:15,360
I'm looking back.

415
00:25:15,360 --> 00:25:17,550
And maybe I'm being a
little too critical.

416
00:25:17,550 --> 00:25:22,500
But I do remember
being taken aback.

417
00:25:22,500 --> 00:25:27,480
And we had a little
group of officers,

418
00:25:27,480 --> 00:25:32,880
about four or five of us
that went around together.

419

00:25:32,880 --> 00:25:34,560
Was this in OCS or afterwards?

420
00:25:34,560 --> 00:25:36,930
Oh, no, this is in England
while we're waiting

421
00:25:36,930 --> 00:25:40,530
for the second front to fall.

422
00:25:40,530 --> 00:25:45,180
One, I remember, was Jewish,
Jewish American officer.

423
00:25:45,180 --> 00:25:46,350
I'd like to locate him--

424
00:25:46,350 --> 00:25:48,630
Perry Waldner.

425
00:25:48,630 --> 00:25:55,780
The others were not,
one or two Protestants

426
00:25:55,780 --> 00:25:57,880
and a Catholic or
two, I suppose.

427
00:25:57,880 --> 00:26:06,610
I remember Perry being the
only Jewish officer there.

428
00:26:06,610 --> 00:26:13,270
And now I'm looking back
at it, Perry Waldner

429
00:26:13,270 --> 00:26:17,950
had a lot of information,
more than we had.

430
00:26:17,950 --> 00:26:23,650
He was very careful
about coming out with it.

431
00:26:23,650 --> 00:26:27,610
Now that I look back at
it, that's a bad sign.

432
00:26:27,610 --> 00:26:30,406
Why would he feel reluctant
to come out with it?

433
00:26:30,406 --> 00:26:33,740

434
00:26:33,740 --> 00:26:37,940
Was he afraid of some
of the bad traits

435
00:26:37,940 --> 00:26:40,640
that the American
character has, culture

436
00:26:40,640 --> 00:26:44,660
had in those years, a Jewish
complaint again or something

437
00:26:44,660 --> 00:26:45,720
like that?

438
00:26:45,720 --> 00:26:49,730
Could that have been at
the back of his mind?

439
00:26:49,730 --> 00:26:51,650
But when I read some
of the stories of--

440
00:26:51,650 --> 00:26:58,080
I'm not sure what was
Stone or Saul Bellow--

441
00:26:58,080 --> 00:26:59,690
Saul Bellow--

442

00:26:59,690 --> 00:27:03,200

A short story about
a Jewish man writing

443

00:27:03,200 --> 00:27:13,160

to his son in the service
overseas and saying,

444

00:27:13,160 --> 00:27:18,160

God forgive me, but when I
look at the obituary pages

445

00:27:18,160 --> 00:27:21,880

of dead soldiers,
I'm almost satisfied

446

00:27:21,880 --> 00:27:22,990

to find a Jewish name.

447

00:27:22,990 --> 00:27:26,930

448

00:27:26,930 --> 00:27:29,210

The way I read that was--

449

00:27:29,210 --> 00:27:30,440

now, it's fiction.

450

00:27:30,440 --> 00:27:31,880

It's fiction.

451

00:27:31,880 --> 00:27:36,620

But good fiction since
it's got some truth in it.

452

00:27:36,620 --> 00:27:41,980

That the words in Perry Waldner,
if I don't do him any wrong,

453

00:27:41,980 --> 00:27:48,260

and I don't think I do, that
if we had asked him more,

454

00:27:48,260 --> 00:27:50,742

he would have given
more, because he

455

00:27:50,742 --> 00:27:52,700

would have felt that he
could come out and just

456

00:27:52,700 --> 00:27:55,040

say what he know.

457

00:27:55,040 --> 00:27:59,300

But he had a kind of a feeling
that he shouldn't be too,

458

00:27:59,300 --> 00:28:03,920

what we say in those days,
pushy, intrusive, or what.

459

00:28:03,920 --> 00:28:06,500

460

00:28:06,500 --> 00:28:09,770

It's an odd thing now,
Doctor, until talking to you,

461

00:28:09,770 --> 00:28:14,390

it's been years since I thought
about Perry Waldner and that.

462

00:28:14,390 --> 00:28:19,970

Are you saying then
that the Jewish soldier

463

00:28:19,970 --> 00:28:26,600

or Jewish officer was more
defensive about his appearing

464

00:28:26,600 --> 00:28:30,770

mainstream American and
not being too Jewish

465

00:28:30,770 --> 00:28:32,780
or not being too--

466
00:28:32,780 --> 00:28:34,070
Some of that.

467
00:28:34,070 --> 00:28:35,600
Some of that.

468
00:28:35,600 --> 00:28:37,580
But also I've noticed
that in the Irish

469
00:28:37,580 --> 00:28:44,690
too when they get among people
that they believe are not

470
00:28:44,690 --> 00:28:49,400
sympathetic or even tolerant.

471
00:28:49,400 --> 00:28:51,500
And they might act that way too.

472
00:28:51,500 --> 00:28:53,900
If you look at it today, do
you think that was a mistake?

473
00:28:53,900 --> 00:28:56,840
Or do you think it was a
necessary act of judiciousness

474
00:28:56,840 --> 00:28:59,211
and discretion and--

475
00:28:59,211 --> 00:29:00,140
Well, I don't know.

476
00:29:00,140 --> 00:29:05,960
Those poor people--
from what I know now,

477
00:29:05,960 --> 00:29:12,325

the fact that this country could
have done more to save people.

478
00:29:12,325 --> 00:29:15,020

479
00:29:15,020 --> 00:29:16,980
I didn't know it at that time.

480
00:29:16,980 --> 00:29:20,570
But now I know it could have
done more to save people

481
00:29:20,570 --> 00:29:23,150
and did not do it.

482
00:29:23,150 --> 00:29:26,690
Some commentators and
critics have said,

483
00:29:26,690 --> 00:29:29,090
yes, that's because of
this particularly Jewish

484
00:29:29,090 --> 00:29:32,420
organization was afraid
of this and the other ones

485
00:29:32,420 --> 00:29:33,830
were pushing in that direction.

486
00:29:33,830 --> 00:29:36,560
They never could come to us.

487
00:29:36,560 --> 00:29:40,502
But that's no excuse anyway.

488
00:29:40,502 --> 00:29:42,210
The president of the
country at that time

489
00:29:42,210 --> 00:29:46,470

was FDR and then
later on Harry Truman.

490
00:29:46,470 --> 00:29:52,390
And if I'm going to hold anybody
at fault, it might be them.

491
00:29:52,390 --> 00:29:57,117
But then a politician would tell
me, you're not being realistic.

492
00:29:57,117 --> 00:29:58,950
I had to run a whole
country, and I couldn't

493
00:29:58,950 --> 00:30:01,020
have done any more than I did.

494
00:30:01,020 --> 00:30:04,810
So now I plead kind of
maybe not ignorance,

495
00:30:04,810 --> 00:30:15,870
but I can't evaluate too
well, too far back I guess.

496
00:30:15,870 --> 00:30:19,020
Did you notice any
bigotry in the army?

497
00:30:19,020 --> 00:30:20,010
Any what?

498
00:30:20,010 --> 00:30:21,395
Any bigotry or--

499
00:30:21,395 --> 00:30:22,290
Oh, yes--

500
00:30:22,290 --> 00:30:23,400
Racism or--

501

00:30:23,400 --> 00:30:24,260
Sure--

502
00:30:24,260 --> 00:30:26,520
Or--

503
00:30:26,520 --> 00:30:28,470
What you would expect.

504
00:30:28,470 --> 00:30:31,050
People from certain parts
of the country feeling

505
00:30:31,050 --> 00:30:32,603
about a certain race.

506
00:30:32,603 --> 00:30:33,520
And it would come out.

507
00:30:33,520 --> 00:30:36,300

508
00:30:36,300 --> 00:30:39,390
And remember, the army was
segregated at that time.

509
00:30:39,390 --> 00:30:43,180
Was not desegregated
until Harry Truman did it.

510
00:30:43,180 --> 00:30:46,560
So there was a lot of that.

511
00:30:46,560 --> 00:30:51,318
I will tell you that I
worked for one man, whom

512
00:30:51,318 --> 00:30:52,110
I have no respect--

513
00:30:52,110 --> 00:30:55,530

514
00:30:55,530 --> 00:30:57,180
I hope he's not dead.

515
00:30:57,180 --> 00:31:00,310
I would have to say that.

516
00:31:00,310 --> 00:31:05,020
He suggested to me at one time--
he was my superior officer.

517
00:31:05,020 --> 00:31:08,030
And there were no
fighting going on.

518
00:31:08,030 --> 00:31:11,690
No, it was after the war.

519
00:31:11,690 --> 00:31:14,720
To go up and visit
a military cemetery,

520
00:31:14,720 --> 00:31:17,800
and we would count the
Star of David's on the tomb

521
00:31:17,800 --> 00:31:20,450
and we would count the crosses.

522
00:31:20,450 --> 00:31:23,920
Well, why would he say that?

523
00:31:23,920 --> 00:31:27,670
Well, I pretty
soon found out, he

524
00:31:27,670 --> 00:31:29,650
was trying to impress
upon me that there

525
00:31:29,650 --> 00:31:33,258
were a lot of crosses and

very few Stars of David.

526

00:31:33,258 --> 00:31:35,050

Well, sure, there'd be
a lot of Anglo-Saxon

527

00:31:35,050 --> 00:31:40,330

and damn few native born
Irish too, that kind of thing.

528

00:31:40,330 --> 00:31:45,730

Unfortunately, that man came
into a position of some power

529

00:31:45,730 --> 00:31:50,080

and shouldn't have,
not an occupation duty.

530

00:31:50,080 --> 00:31:55,450

In dealing with the
Germans after the war,

531

00:31:55,450 --> 00:31:57,970

we don't want any of that.

532

00:31:57,970 --> 00:32:02,320

We don't want to have any of
that anyway, but certainly

533

00:32:02,320 --> 00:32:07,000

not in a man with
that kind of duty.

534

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:10,055

He said this after the war
was over in other words?

535

00:32:10,055 --> 00:32:10,555

Yes.

536

00:32:10,555 --> 00:32:13,810

537

00:32:13,810 --> 00:32:17,970

Now, I must tell you why
I find that so offensive.

538

00:32:17,970 --> 00:32:19,530

And by the way, I let him know.

539

00:32:19,530 --> 00:32:23,340

Thank God, I let him
know at the time.

540

00:32:23,340 --> 00:32:26,640

When I was living in a
tenement before I moved out

541

00:32:26,640 --> 00:32:30,360

to Queens, which meant I
was under eight years old,

542

00:32:30,360 --> 00:32:32,580

I told you the kind of
neighborhood we lived in,

543

00:32:32,580 --> 00:32:35,490

a real melting pot.

544

00:32:35,490 --> 00:32:36,940

We were poor.

545

00:32:36,940 --> 00:32:38,250

My father was a policeman.

546

00:32:38,250 --> 00:32:40,950

But policemen didn't
make very much.

547

00:32:40,950 --> 00:32:43,870

My mother had eight children.

548

00:32:43,870 --> 00:32:47,130

She bore eight children
in a cold water flat.

549
00:32:47,130 --> 00:32:50,060

550
00:32:50,060 --> 00:32:52,820
Policeman's pay, tough.

551
00:32:52,820 --> 00:32:59,660
My father working hard, extra
jobs, days off, vacation.

552
00:32:59,660 --> 00:33:04,070
My brother got very
sick, very, very sick.

553
00:33:04,070 --> 00:33:05,360
He had scarlet fever.

554
00:33:05,360 --> 00:33:06,440
He had heart damage.

555
00:33:06,440 --> 00:33:10,640

556
00:33:10,640 --> 00:33:16,040
The doctor that my mother
was calling upon to help--

557
00:33:16,040 --> 00:33:18,630
she couldn't pay.

558
00:33:18,630 --> 00:33:21,470
She couldn't pay very much.

559
00:33:21,470 --> 00:33:30,530
But the doctor shunted her off
and said call Dr. Nerenstone.

560
00:33:30,530 --> 00:33:33,860
There's a good name, Nerenstone.

561

00:33:33,860 --> 00:33:36,710

I remember Dr.
Nerenstone coming.

562

00:33:36,710 --> 00:33:38,840

I remember what it looked like.

563

00:33:38,840 --> 00:33:44,900

A good looking
man, nice mustache,

564

00:33:44,900 --> 00:33:47,660

very good Jewish doctor.

565

00:33:47,660 --> 00:33:50,930

He not only took
care of my brother,

566

00:33:50,930 --> 00:33:54,050

he brought the medication.

567

00:33:54,050 --> 00:33:56,240

He visited him frequently.

568

00:33:56,240 --> 00:33:58,490

He gave money to my mother.

569

00:33:58,490 --> 00:34:01,550

And he sent my
brother to recuperate

570

00:34:01,550 --> 00:34:07,190

at a convalescent place and
virtually all on his own money.

571

00:34:07,190 --> 00:34:09,409

I remember that, you see.

572

00:34:09,409 --> 00:34:14,120

These are good people.

573

00:34:14,120 --> 00:34:16,340

When you went-- the
poor Germans, I suppose,

574
00:34:16,340 --> 00:34:17,420
knew that too.

575
00:34:17,420 --> 00:34:19,760
Maybe the common
German knew that too.

576
00:34:19,760 --> 00:34:24,770
But he sees cartoons of Jews
as money lenders, greedy.

577
00:34:24,770 --> 00:34:26,690
You know the caricature.

578
00:34:26,690 --> 00:34:29,520

579
00:34:29,520 --> 00:34:33,810
And I remember that
about Nerenstone

580
00:34:33,810 --> 00:34:36,790
and that kind of person.

581
00:34:36,790 --> 00:34:42,929
And I suppose-- oh, I have been
accused of being entirely too

582
00:34:42,929 --> 00:34:45,900
partial to Jews, you know.

583
00:34:45,900 --> 00:34:48,480
I don't think I'm
particularly partial to them.

584
00:34:48,480 --> 00:34:52,860
I argue with them as readily
as I will with anybody else.

585

00:34:52,860 --> 00:34:57,630

The reason that is
said about me is

586

00:34:57,630 --> 00:35:00,690

that whenever the
opportunity comes up

587

00:35:00,690 --> 00:35:04,260

and somebody says something
that involves what we're talking

588

00:35:04,260 --> 00:35:08,520

about now, what happened
to a lot of people,

589

00:35:08,520 --> 00:35:13,110

perfectly absolutely
innocent, except they

590

00:35:13,110 --> 00:35:17,040

had the wrong blood,
had the wrong parents.

591

00:35:17,040 --> 00:35:18,570

And I will say something.

592

00:35:18,570 --> 00:35:22,540

And it'll be very forthright.

593

00:35:22,540 --> 00:35:24,660

That's why I think
they consider I

594

00:35:24,660 --> 00:35:27,420

shouldn't do too much in that.

595

00:35:27,420 --> 00:35:29,070

But they're wrong.

596

00:35:29,070 --> 00:35:31,650

I should.

597

00:35:31,650 --> 00:35:33,150

Not to overdo it.

598

00:35:33,150 --> 00:35:35,130

But do it.

599

00:35:35,130 --> 00:35:37,400

That's why I'm here.

600

00:35:37,400 --> 00:35:40,740

That's why I was at Brookdale.

601

00:35:40,740 --> 00:35:44,990

I have a moral responsibility
to testify to the truth.

602

00:35:44,990 --> 00:35:48,930

603

00:35:48,930 --> 00:35:56,050

I know there are people who deny
the whole thing or large parts

604

00:35:56,050 --> 00:35:56,550

of it.

605

00:35:56,550 --> 00:35:57,940

It didn't happen.

606

00:35:57,940 --> 00:36:02,130

It wasn't that bad,
et cetera, et cetera.

607

00:36:02,130 --> 00:36:03,150

They're wrong.

608

00:36:03,150 --> 00:36:04,750

I'm a witness.

609

00:36:04,750 --> 00:36:06,780

They can talk to me.

610
00:36:06,780 --> 00:36:11,640
I can prove I was
there, if necessary.

611
00:36:11,640 --> 00:36:17,390
But that kind of person
doesn't come to me, see.

612
00:36:17,390 --> 00:36:21,220
So when I say I feel that a
moral responsibility to testify

613
00:36:21,220 --> 00:36:25,240
to it, I must tell
you that I realize

614
00:36:25,240 --> 00:36:28,150
other persecuted people--

615
00:36:28,150 --> 00:36:29,650
I may mention the Armenians.

616
00:36:29,650 --> 00:36:33,010
I certainly would mention the
Irish sense of persecution

617
00:36:33,010 --> 00:36:36,220
is very much alive.

618
00:36:36,220 --> 00:36:38,620
And you can't just single
out Jews and saying, look,

619
00:36:38,620 --> 00:36:39,460
you're too sentient.

620
00:36:39,460 --> 00:36:42,010

621
00:36:42,010 --> 00:36:45,360
How many millions?

622
00:36:45,360 --> 00:36:45,930
Whatever.

623
00:36:45,930 --> 00:36:49,260
Even if it was only a thousand.

624
00:36:49,260 --> 00:36:50,850
But it was millions.

625
00:36:50,850 --> 00:36:53,940
So it's overwhelming.

626
00:36:53,940 --> 00:36:55,770
And as long as I'm around--

627
00:36:55,770 --> 00:36:59,880
I am beginning to
sound almost biblical--

628
00:36:59,880 --> 00:37:03,383
I give testimony to
this kind of thing.

629
00:37:03,383 --> 00:37:07,712

630
00:37:07,712 --> 00:37:09,420
What did you see when
you went to Dachau?

631
00:37:09,420 --> 00:37:12,300

632
00:37:12,300 --> 00:37:22,910
Well, I remember right
at the main gate,

633
00:37:22,910 --> 00:37:25,410
I remember one GI standing
over to the right.

634

00:37:25,410 --> 00:37:28,610

There's kind of a little
guardhouse, sentry box

635

00:37:28,610 --> 00:37:31,240

kind of thing, something
like that, I recall.

636

00:37:31,240 --> 00:37:38,420

And I remember a German soldier,
an SS man on the ground.

637

00:37:38,420 --> 00:37:42,230

And he had been
cut up pretty well

638

00:37:42,230 --> 00:37:48,110

with a Tommy gun, which
fired 45 caliber shells.

639

00:37:48,110 --> 00:37:53,000

And that soldier was
still standing over him,

640

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:57,150

ready if, I supposed,
to do it all over again.

641

00:37:57,150 --> 00:38:00,170

Was the SS man already
dead or was he still--

642

00:38:00,170 --> 00:38:03,230

No, apparently, he
had been cut down just

643

00:38:03,230 --> 00:38:05,600

before I looked at him,
just before I saw him.

644

00:38:05,600 --> 00:38:08,390

It's like turning your
head suddenly like that,

645
00:38:08,390 --> 00:38:09,080
and I saw it.

646
00:38:09,080 --> 00:38:10,130
And he fell.

647
00:38:10,130 --> 00:38:16,080
And a lot of shooting going
on in that particular area.

648
00:38:16,080 --> 00:38:18,530
And you can hear a
fuselage of rapid shots

649
00:38:18,530 --> 00:38:21,620
from a submachine gun, you
know, identify it right away.

650
00:38:21,620 --> 00:38:23,360
So I connected it right away.

651
00:38:23,360 --> 00:38:26,540
He's lying there, still
moving a little bit.

652
00:38:26,540 --> 00:38:31,850
And I heard about 8 or 10 or
12 rounds go off, or whatever.

653
00:38:31,850 --> 00:38:33,735
That's the first thing I saw.

654
00:38:33,735 --> 00:38:34,860
Well that didn't bother me.

655
00:38:34,860 --> 00:38:38,570
I had seen many dead
soldiers, American and German,

656
00:38:38,570 --> 00:38:40,890
before that.

657
00:38:40,890 --> 00:38:47,930
But then, looking in
through that gate,

658
00:38:47,930 --> 00:38:50,810
I was looking for the
headquarters of the camp.

659
00:38:50,810 --> 00:38:53,540

660
00:38:53,540 --> 00:38:57,200
And I saw what looked like--

661
00:38:57,200 --> 00:39:03,050
I saw part of a marking on the
building alongside, actually

662
00:39:03,050 --> 00:39:05,060
painted on it I think.

663
00:39:05,060 --> 00:39:08,650
It said, Verwaltungstelle SS--

664
00:39:08,650 --> 00:39:11,270
it sound to me like
headquarters, SS,

665
00:39:11,270 --> 00:39:14,360
so I started in that direction.

666
00:39:14,360 --> 00:39:17,030
GIs were around me at that time.

667
00:39:17,030 --> 00:39:19,580
I grabbed a hold of one,
that was McGlinchey,

668
00:39:19,580 --> 00:39:21,740
who had the Tommy gun.

669

00:39:21,740 --> 00:39:23,810

I needed him for protection
in case somebody's

670

00:39:23,810 --> 00:39:25,040

going to shoot at me.

671

00:39:25,040 --> 00:39:26,380

I had only a 45.

672

00:39:26,380 --> 00:39:30,950

I needed a man with
a rifle, a Tommy gun.

673

00:39:30,950 --> 00:39:34,460

And on the way toward
that Verwaltungstelle,

674

00:39:34,460 --> 00:39:38,420

that's why I felt I would
find somebody who knew where

675

00:39:38,420 --> 00:39:41,180

Niemoller was, where Blum was.

676

00:39:41,180 --> 00:39:44,840

677

00:39:44,840 --> 00:39:52,910

And I think the distance
must've been about 500 yards

678

00:39:52,910 --> 00:39:55,760

across that open space.

679

00:39:55,760 --> 00:39:58,100

I was encountered
first by a prisoner

680

00:39:58,100 --> 00:39:59,885

who spoke excellent English.

681

00:39:59,885 --> 00:40:02,930

The name was Ali

[? Couchie, ?] he said.

682

00:40:02,930 --> 00:40:06,560

Newspaper man from

Constantinople.

683

00:40:06,560 --> 00:40:08,030

He said, I'll be

your interpreter.

684

00:40:08,030 --> 00:40:11,400

Well, my German was not too

bad, but his was better.

685

00:40:11,400 --> 00:40:13,070

So I brought him along.

686

00:40:13,070 --> 00:40:15,930

He's the guy that pointed

out Father Roth ahead of me.

687

00:40:15,930 --> 00:40:17,180

And I grabbed the two of them.

688

00:40:17,180 --> 00:40:20,840

I said, kind of stick with me.

689

00:40:20,840 --> 00:40:23,670

And got to the building

where I found out

690

00:40:23,670 --> 00:40:29,450

the GIs were already pretty well

cleaned it out of any Nazis.

691

00:40:29,450 --> 00:40:30,440

And I turned around.

692

00:40:30,440 --> 00:40:36,320

And I forget exactly

what I did after that.

693

00:40:36,320 --> 00:40:44,990

But before too long,
I had picked up

694

00:40:44,990 --> 00:40:49,820

five or six suspicious
looking people,

695

00:40:49,820 --> 00:40:57,620

in prisoner's garb that looked
too healthy, too well-fed, too

696

00:40:57,620 --> 00:41:01,020

strong to be inmates.

697

00:41:01,020 --> 00:41:03,980

And I captured them.

698

00:41:03,980 --> 00:41:06,710

Then I brought them
in, McGlinchey and I.

699

00:41:06,710 --> 00:41:11,720

They turned out to be some of
the physicians, the doctors,

700

00:41:11,720 --> 00:41:15,740

the medical men, who had been
working on experimentation

701

00:41:15,740 --> 00:41:20,540

with prisoners, right across
from the headquarters.

702

00:41:20,540 --> 00:41:24,650

In fact, I have a picture took
out of the second floor window.

703

00:41:24,650 --> 00:41:31,270

It shows a command
car that says,

704
00:41:31,270 --> 00:41:33,700
45th Division on the bumper.

705
00:41:33,700 --> 00:41:37,090
Then the next meant one
star, the assistant division

706
00:41:37,090 --> 00:41:43,480
commander, some soldiers hanging
around, and a line of about 12

707
00:41:43,480 --> 00:41:49,990
of these Nazi doctors,
all in perfect formation

708
00:41:49,990 --> 00:41:51,165
and alignment.

709
00:41:51,165 --> 00:41:55,720

710
00:41:55,720 --> 00:41:58,840
The Germans had that
kind of a passion

711
00:41:58,840 --> 00:42:04,820
for order, which sounds
reasonable till you found out

712
00:42:04,820 --> 00:42:06,890
what the order
was, the new order

713
00:42:06,890 --> 00:42:09,260
that they were going to bring.

714
00:42:09,260 --> 00:42:13,400
But that was funny, I
noticed even the physicians.

715
00:42:13,400 --> 00:42:15,800

And later on, when
some war crimes people

716
00:42:15,800 --> 00:42:21,338
came to interrogate them,
I set up a little office

717
00:42:21,338 --> 00:42:22,880
on the second floor
of that building.

718
00:42:22,880 --> 00:42:25,680

719
00:42:25,680 --> 00:42:30,750
And they had an office down
the hallway a little bit.

720
00:42:30,750 --> 00:42:33,492

721
00:42:33,492 --> 00:42:36,970
And it must have been the
next day or that evening,

722
00:42:36,970 --> 00:42:37,630
I'm not sure.

723
00:42:37,630 --> 00:42:39,415
I can't recall exactly.

724
00:42:39,415 --> 00:42:42,110

725
00:42:42,110 --> 00:42:46,820
I went into a room, and I found
some of these doctor types,

726
00:42:46,820 --> 00:42:53,030
physician types, with their
hands against the wall and a GI

727

00:42:53,030 --> 00:42:53,990
guarding them.

728
00:42:53,990 --> 00:42:56,630
I guess they were going to be
interrogated by the war crimes

729
00:42:56,630 --> 00:43:00,650
people one by one.

730
00:43:00,650 --> 00:43:04,890
And one of them turned around,
which he wasn't supposed to do,

731
00:43:04,890 --> 00:43:09,590
and lucky he wasn't shot the
way the GI were, looked at me.

732
00:43:09,590 --> 00:43:11,420
And he saw I was an officer.

733
00:43:11,420 --> 00:43:16,328
And he appealed to me, why
had he been treated like this?

734
00:43:16,328 --> 00:43:17,870
Because they weren't
allowed to move,

735
00:43:17,870 --> 00:43:21,200
therefore they had
urinated in place.

736
00:43:21,200 --> 00:43:24,500
He thought this was disgraceful.

737
00:43:24,500 --> 00:43:29,310
And he appealed to me to
do something about it.

738
00:43:29,310 --> 00:43:33,830
Well, I guess I must have
been pretty stony faced.

739
00:43:33,830 --> 00:43:41,480
I asked him anyway, are
you one of the doctors,

740
00:43:41,480 --> 00:43:47,750
forget the name,
Arzt, from next door?

741
00:43:47,750 --> 00:43:50,620
he said, yes.

742
00:43:50,620 --> 00:43:52,390
I said, you want me to help you?

743
00:43:52,390 --> 00:43:55,240
You want me to relieve you?

744
00:43:55,240 --> 00:43:59,140
Just of standing
against the wall?

745
00:43:59,140 --> 00:44:01,300
Look what you did.

746
00:44:01,300 --> 00:44:04,360
And he said, it was science.

747
00:44:04,360 --> 00:44:05,430
It was for science.

748
00:44:05,430 --> 00:44:09,640

749
00:44:09,640 --> 00:44:13,060
That was the closest I ever came
to killing a man in cold blood.

750
00:44:13,060 --> 00:44:15,250
Thank God, I didn't do it.

751

00:44:15,250 --> 00:44:16,390
How did he say it?

752
00:44:16,390 --> 00:44:19,600
Did he say it with--

753
00:44:19,600 --> 00:44:22,600
With perfect coolness
and rationality,

754
00:44:22,600 --> 00:44:29,675
as if it should be clear to
a reasonable man that it's

755
00:44:29,675 --> 00:44:30,175
science.

756
00:44:30,175 --> 00:44:33,770

757
00:44:33,770 --> 00:44:34,510
Some science.

758
00:44:34,510 --> 00:44:38,990

759
00:44:38,990 --> 00:44:41,330
Science does not justify
what they were doing.

760
00:44:41,330 --> 00:44:43,280
Of course, it does not.

761
00:44:43,280 --> 00:44:44,900
In no way could it.

762
00:44:44,900 --> 00:44:50,660
And if it did, we would have to
rethink our scientific system

763
00:44:50,660 --> 00:44:53,800
of ethics, I think.

764
00:44:53,800 --> 00:44:57,470
It would be abhorrent to us.

765
00:44:57,470 --> 00:44:59,570
But I knew what was
behind some of them.

766
00:44:59,570 --> 00:45:02,170
They were only dealing
with subhuman anyway.

767
00:45:02,170 --> 00:45:03,670
See, that was the way out.

768
00:45:03,670 --> 00:45:06,830
Do you happen to know what
this man did specifically?

769
00:45:06,830 --> 00:45:08,640
No.

770
00:45:08,640 --> 00:45:10,950
I don't.

771
00:45:10,950 --> 00:45:17,010
I wish I had been able to
attend the trials at Nuremberg

772
00:45:17,010 --> 00:45:19,680
or be in on the interrogations.

773
00:45:19,680 --> 00:45:20,580
But I wasn't.

774
00:45:20,580 --> 00:45:22,530
While you were at
Dachau, did you

775
00:45:22,530 --> 00:45:28,560
happen to come across any
evidence of what they had done

776
00:45:28,560 --> 00:45:30,060
in these medical experiments?

777
00:45:30,060 --> 00:45:32,790

778
00:45:32,790 --> 00:45:37,620
Not what a lawyer would
call good evidence, I think.

779
00:45:37,620 --> 00:45:44,310
I saw the laboratories,
which looked in many respects

780
00:45:44,310 --> 00:45:48,780
like a dissecting room, kind
of tables that were apparently

781
00:45:48,780 --> 00:45:50,220
used as operating tables.

782
00:45:50,220 --> 00:45:53,760
And they were stainless steel
or something, easily washed.

783
00:45:53,760 --> 00:45:59,880
If I had seen a
tortured corpse there,

784
00:45:59,880 --> 00:46:02,730
that would be a little
better evidence.

785
00:46:02,730 --> 00:46:04,110
But I didn't.

786
00:46:04,110 --> 00:46:05,370
I did not see.

787
00:46:05,370 --> 00:46:13,650
I'm going on what was told me

by people there, whom I believe.

788

00:46:13,650 --> 00:46:16,800

Somebody like Roth,
I would believe him.

789

00:46:16,800 --> 00:46:19,020

Absolutely believe him.

790

00:46:19,020 --> 00:46:22,080

He was in there so long.

791

00:46:22,080 --> 00:46:26,790

And I knew he was a man
dedicated to the truth,

792

00:46:26,790 --> 00:46:28,780

because he was that kind of man.

793

00:46:28,780 --> 00:46:33,180

He had that reputation as a
philosopher and theologian

794

00:46:33,180 --> 00:46:38,010

in Germany, a high reputation
in university circles.

795

00:46:38,010 --> 00:46:39,900

That kind of thing
I would accept.

796

00:46:39,900 --> 00:46:46,110

Myself, no, I can't say that I
saw anything with my own eyes

797

00:46:46,110 --> 00:46:48,550

that I could say that's good
evidence of the exactly what

798

00:46:48,550 --> 00:46:49,050

they did.

799

00:46:49,050 --> 00:46:51,600
I read about it.

800
00:46:51,600 --> 00:46:53,220
And that part I believe.

801
00:46:53,220 --> 00:46:59,840
I accept on the testimony
of good witnesses.

802
00:46:59,840 --> 00:47:01,490
What about the
prisoners themselves?

803
00:47:01,490 --> 00:47:03,530
What did you notice about them?

804
00:47:03,530 --> 00:47:06,900

805
00:47:06,900 --> 00:47:14,610
Well, as I told you, I
met two individuals first,

806
00:47:14,610 --> 00:47:20,520
Ali [? Couchie ?] the Arab,
or the Turkish newspaper man,

807
00:47:20,520 --> 00:47:26,070
I think, and then Father
Roth, and talk a little bit

808
00:47:26,070 --> 00:47:32,820
to both of them on a day,
which was really a crazy day.

809
00:47:32,820 --> 00:47:35,010
Later on that day,
for some reason--

810
00:47:35,010 --> 00:47:37,740

811

00:47:37,740 --> 00:47:42,280

oh, I know what the reason was.

812

00:47:42,280 --> 00:47:44,860

Someone told me that
the assistant commandant

813

00:47:44,860 --> 00:47:49,240

or the adjutant of
the camp, the SS,

814

00:47:49,240 --> 00:47:53,980

was still in the
camp in disguise.

815

00:47:53,980 --> 00:47:56,730

816

00:47:56,730 --> 00:47:58,900

The disguise, it turned
out, that he used

817

00:47:58,900 --> 00:48:03,580

was to put on that
striped uniform.

818

00:48:03,580 --> 00:48:07,870

And I remember going
towards groups of men.

819

00:48:07,870 --> 00:48:11,950

I remember one group of men.

820

00:48:11,950 --> 00:48:14,860

And they had already made
a little French tricolor.

821

00:48:14,860 --> 00:48:17,710

They were holding
it up in the air.

822

00:48:17,710 --> 00:48:20,230

So my French was
better than my German.

823
00:48:20,230 --> 00:48:23,120
So I went to them and
started to talk to them.

824
00:48:23,120 --> 00:48:28,330
But as soon as I approached
them, it was very moving.

825
00:48:28,330 --> 00:48:32,530
They all took off their hats,
and they held it like this

826
00:48:32,530 --> 00:48:33,430
on account of me.

827
00:48:33,430 --> 00:48:36,170

828
00:48:36,170 --> 00:48:41,450
And I took that to be a
kind of acknowledgment

829
00:48:41,450 --> 00:48:47,960
or a mark of gratitude
that they were showing.

830
00:48:47,960 --> 00:48:52,340
But it's a very reverential
gesture to make.

831
00:48:52,340 --> 00:48:56,570
And I tried to put
them at their ease,

832
00:48:56,570 --> 00:48:59,990
talk to them about this
commandant, whose name I

833
00:48:59,990 --> 00:49:01,490
can never remember.

834
00:49:01,490 --> 00:49:02,830
And I didn't write it down.

835
00:49:02,830 --> 00:49:06,090

836
00:49:06,090 --> 00:49:09,030
But they said, that
group of Frenchmen said,

837
00:49:09,030 --> 00:49:12,810
yes, they had heard
the same thing too.

838
00:49:12,810 --> 00:49:15,860
And they were pretty sure of it,
because others had been found.

839
00:49:15,860 --> 00:49:19,330

840
00:49:19,330 --> 00:49:21,810
Now, I don't know about
that day or the next day,

841
00:49:21,810 --> 00:49:25,510
it may have been the next day.

842
00:49:25,510 --> 00:49:28,710
Still in that very open
square, a lot of sunlight,

843
00:49:28,710 --> 00:49:37,510
beautiful weather, looking
out of my office window,

844
00:49:37,510 --> 00:49:42,850
seeing a group-- it looked
like a moving mob coming

845
00:49:42,850 --> 00:49:48,700

in the direction of the building
I was in, the headquarters.

846
00:49:48,700 --> 00:49:50,860
And when it got a little
closer, and I went down

847
00:49:50,860 --> 00:49:56,140
to find out what it was
about, there was a man,

848
00:49:56,140 --> 00:50:00,020
looked very much
a German soldier.

849
00:50:00,020 --> 00:50:04,480
He was gray haired, looked
to be about 55 maybe,

850
00:50:04,480 --> 00:50:10,480
50, 55, gray hair, still
gray, military type mustache,

851
00:50:10,480 --> 00:50:15,430
very military
looking in, however,

852
00:50:15,430 --> 00:50:22,420
prisoner's garb and a young
Jewish boy right next to him.

853
00:50:22,420 --> 00:50:29,620
Apparently, the young
man had pointed him out

854
00:50:29,620 --> 00:50:32,780
to American soldiers.

855
00:50:32,780 --> 00:50:35,240
And they captured him.

856
00:50:35,240 --> 00:50:42,410
Trouble was the GIs had a

hell of a time getting him

857

00:50:42,410 --> 00:50:46,100
into the building where I was,
because the other prisoners

858

00:50:46,100 --> 00:50:51,900
were trying to tear him
apart, to claw him to death.

859

00:50:51,900 --> 00:50:53,400
He was--

860

00:50:53,400 --> 00:50:55,830
Was this the commandant or--

861

00:50:55,830 --> 00:50:57,660
Assistant commandant
or adjutant.

862

00:50:57,660 --> 00:50:59,130
I was never quite sure.

863

00:50:59,130 --> 00:51:03,240
Whoever he is I have
his sword at home.

864

00:51:03,240 --> 00:51:05,520
But, see, they were
ready to tear him apart

865

00:51:05,520 --> 00:51:08,310
with their hands.

866

00:51:08,310 --> 00:51:09,450
The prisoners were?

867

00:51:09,450 --> 00:51:10,470
Yeah.

868

00:51:10,470 --> 00:51:13,360
It must have been sometime

later, because the GIs now

869
00:51:13,360 --> 00:51:15,150
were--

870
00:51:15,150 --> 00:51:19,860
they had no love for any SS,
not after the Malmedy massacre

871
00:51:19,860 --> 00:51:22,690
of our troops in Belgium.

872
00:51:22,690 --> 00:51:24,000
No.

873
00:51:24,000 --> 00:51:25,830
But by that time, I
guess they realized

874
00:51:25,830 --> 00:51:31,560
that we had to have this
guy alive and find out.

875
00:51:31,560 --> 00:51:37,170
Then the war crimes
people took him under tow.

876
00:51:37,170 --> 00:51:41,880
And they questioned him
about 30 feet down the hall

877
00:51:41,880 --> 00:51:47,130
from my office night and day
about three or four days.

878
00:51:47,130 --> 00:51:51,920

879
00:51:51,920 --> 00:51:56,380
And I am sorry that
they beat him terribly.

880

00:51:56,380 --> 00:51:57,510
Why should I be sorry?

881
00:51:57,510 --> 00:52:01,690

882
00:52:01,690 --> 00:52:07,030
One of the reasons I was there--
for treating people, even him.

883
00:52:07,030 --> 00:52:11,920
Nuremberg and the
court and the sense

884
00:52:11,920 --> 00:52:15,400
of justice of the civilized
world, that's what I wanted,

885
00:52:15,400 --> 00:52:16,420
you see.

886
00:52:16,420 --> 00:52:18,760
I wouldn't have
killed him myself.

887
00:52:18,760 --> 00:52:22,534
In combat, I would have.

888
00:52:22,534 --> 00:52:24,660
You know that sickened me also.

889
00:52:24,660 --> 00:52:28,300

890
00:52:28,300 --> 00:52:30,270
You can't become like them.

891
00:52:30,270 --> 00:52:34,670

892
00:52:34,670 --> 00:52:36,810
Strictly speaking, was

he a prisoner of war?

893

00:52:36,810 --> 00:52:41,595

Strictly speaking, he
was a prisoner of war.

894

00:52:41,595 --> 00:52:43,040

So I'll give him his rights.

895

00:52:43,040 --> 00:52:45,700

896

00:52:45,700 --> 00:52:51,070

I was also told I shouldn't
have been bothered about that.

897

00:52:51,070 --> 00:52:56,080

You don't want to get to
self-analytic about every one

898

00:52:56,080 --> 00:52:57,730

of your emotions.

899

00:52:57,730 --> 00:53:01,690

But you should know the reason
for why you would do a thing

900

00:53:01,690 --> 00:53:03,310

or not do a thing.

901

00:53:03,310 --> 00:53:06,700

By the way, they never
got anything out of him.

902

00:53:06,700 --> 00:53:08,980

I remember telling
the war crimes people,

903

00:53:08,980 --> 00:53:13,260

you will not get
anything out of that guy.

904

00:53:13,260 --> 00:53:15,060

He was tough.

905

00:53:15,060 --> 00:53:17,310

How did you see
your particular job?

906

00:53:17,310 --> 00:53:22,650

And how was your job
connected to or in conflict

907

00:53:22,650 --> 00:53:25,740

with the war crimes?

908

00:53:25,740 --> 00:53:30,300

Except for my reaction
to their method,

909

00:53:30,300 --> 00:53:32,560

no other conflict at all.

910

00:53:32,560 --> 00:53:37,410

I knew that my job, and then
with two other officers who

911

00:53:37,410 --> 00:53:46,830

came up later, our
job was to do whatever

912

00:53:46,830 --> 00:53:55,380

seemed necessary to put the
situation at Dachau in order,

913

00:53:55,380 --> 00:54:01,050

bring in food, medical supplies,
find out who was there,

914

00:54:01,050 --> 00:54:06,180

prepare to repatriate
them, get information,

915

00:54:06,180 --> 00:54:08,830

wreckage, whatever.

916
00:54:08,830 --> 00:54:12,430
So that we could empty the camp.

917
00:54:12,430 --> 00:54:14,080
So I remember somebody--

918
00:54:14,080 --> 00:54:17,310
I was not high enough rank at
that time to give the order.

919
00:54:17,310 --> 00:54:19,965

920
00:54:19,965 --> 00:54:25,890
It was probably the Lieutenant
Colonel Joyce later on brought

921
00:54:25,890 --> 00:54:34,665
in two mobile hospitals to take
care of these poor people, who

922
00:54:34,665 --> 00:54:37,076
were dying right and left.

923
00:54:37,076 --> 00:54:39,750
And the GIs unfortunately
had been feeding them

924
00:54:39,750 --> 00:54:46,920
rations, which killed some
of them, as an act of mercy

925
00:54:46,920 --> 00:54:50,250
and it backfired.

926
00:54:50,250 --> 00:54:54,150
So your job was
essentially humanitarian?

927
00:54:54,150 --> 00:54:55,260
Yeah.

928
00:54:55,260 --> 00:55:00,455
As opposed to legalistic
or investigative.

929
00:55:00,455 --> 00:55:02,790
Well, a little of that too.

930
00:55:02,790 --> 00:55:04,430
The records that we had--

931
00:55:04,430 --> 00:55:06,600
oh, investigative
in a sense of what

932
00:55:06,600 --> 00:55:08,010
the war crimes
people were doing,

933
00:55:08,010 --> 00:55:12,060
no, that was theirs, not mine.

934
00:55:12,060 --> 00:55:14,770
Oh, I forgot to tell
you something, Doctor.

935
00:55:14,770 --> 00:55:19,770
Picture comes back sometimes
a little more clearly.

936
00:55:19,770 --> 00:55:23,730
Just before getting to that
main gate that I told you about.

937
00:55:23,730 --> 00:55:25,800
Yes.

938
00:55:25,800 --> 00:55:31,830
I think it's the gate that
faces east toward Munich.

939
00:55:31,830 --> 00:55:38,910

They had that railroad siding
with cattle cars still on it.

940
00:55:38,910 --> 00:55:41,730
I don't know how many cars.

941
00:55:41,730 --> 00:55:43,530
I looked in.

942
00:55:43,530 --> 00:55:46,320
There were bodies outside.

943
00:55:46,320 --> 00:55:48,813
They were cattle cars.

944
00:55:48,813 --> 00:55:52,620
They were cattle cars
with no tops on them.

945
00:55:52,620 --> 00:55:55,110
So maybe that's
not a cattle car.

946
00:55:55,110 --> 00:56:01,000
They were almost all dead.

947
00:56:01,000 --> 00:56:05,020
They had been moved from
another place or another camp

948
00:56:05,020 --> 00:56:11,780
and got sidetracked, left
there apparently to die.

949
00:56:11,780 --> 00:56:18,410
Then outside along the
tracks, long line of them,

950
00:56:18,410 --> 00:56:21,020
they had been shot.

951
00:56:21,020 --> 00:56:27,740

And I reconstructed that to
mean that some tried to escape

952
00:56:27,740 --> 00:56:30,320
and were shot down right
in a nice line, right

953
00:56:30,320 --> 00:56:31,970
alongside the truck.

954
00:56:31,970 --> 00:56:34,370
I saw that before I
got to the main gate.

955
00:56:34,370 --> 00:56:39,380
That was my first big shock,
because somehow when I looked

956
00:56:39,380 --> 00:56:43,370
at it, I saw the whole thing.

957
00:56:43,370 --> 00:56:45,020
I said, there are
people in there.

958
00:56:45,020 --> 00:56:49,910
Those aren't people
destined to be inmates.

959
00:56:49,910 --> 00:56:52,780
They were not all dead
in the car, by the way.

960
00:56:52,780 --> 00:56:54,800
I saw a twitch now and then.

961
00:56:54,800 --> 00:56:57,560
So pretty fresh.

962
00:56:57,560 --> 00:57:01,790
And then I saw fresh dead
bodies along the railway.

963

00:57:01,790 --> 00:57:04,880

Were there any that
could still be saved?

964

00:57:04,880 --> 00:57:06,110

Or were they all--

965

00:57:06,110 --> 00:57:08,107

I don't think a
single one was saved.

966

00:57:08,107 --> 00:57:10,850

967

00:57:10,850 --> 00:57:14,860

We have to stop for a
moment to change the tape.

968

00:57:14,860 --> 00:57:23,051