

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:22,140

2
00:00:22,140 --> 00:00:23,140
Good evening.

3
00:00:23,140 --> 00:00:24,810
My name is Bernard
Weinstein, and I'm

4
00:00:24,810 --> 00:00:29,070
the Director of the Kean
College Oral Testimonies Project

5
00:00:29,070 --> 00:00:31,420
on the Holocaust.

6
00:00:31,420 --> 00:00:35,190
Tonight, I am interviewing
Reverend Elbridge Holland

7
00:00:35,190 --> 00:00:40,950
of Basking Ridge who was present
at the liberation of Dachau

8
00:00:40,950 --> 00:00:43,170
concentration camp.

9
00:00:43,170 --> 00:00:48,090
Reverend Holland, I'd like
to welcome you to our series

10
00:00:48,090 --> 00:00:51,530
on in-depth interviews
on the Holocaust.

11
00:00:51,530 --> 00:00:52,810
Thank you very much.

12
00:00:52,810 --> 00:00:54,960
Thank you.

13
00:00:54,960 --> 00:01:00,180
Would you tell us a little
bit about where you were born

14
00:01:00,180 --> 00:01:04,590
and what happened to you
to get you to Dachau?

15
00:01:04,590 --> 00:01:07,590

16
00:01:07,590 --> 00:01:09,880
Well, I was born in
Scottsville, Kentucky,

17
00:01:09,880 --> 00:01:13,950
which is a very small, rural
town in southern Kentucky.

18
00:01:13,950 --> 00:01:20,070
And I really was never more
than 60 miles away from home

19
00:01:20,070 --> 00:01:23,290
until I became a
junior in high school.

20
00:01:23,290 --> 00:01:30,475
And then when I was 20
years old, you know,

21
00:01:30,475 --> 00:01:32,880
I'd been over a great
part of the United States.

22
00:01:32,880 --> 00:01:37,890
And by the time I became
21 I was in Europe.

23
00:01:37,890 --> 00:01:40,320
How old were you when
you went into the army.

24
00:01:40,320 --> 00:01:42,600
I was 19.

25
00:01:42,600 --> 00:01:46,440
And I had gone to college.

26
00:01:46,440 --> 00:01:49,380
Kentucky Wesleyan College
at Winchester Kentucky.

27
00:01:49,380 --> 00:01:54,540
And I was headed to
study for the ministry.

28
00:01:54,540 --> 00:02:03,120
But I was advised that I ought
to sign up for the reserves.

29
00:02:03,120 --> 00:02:07,680
And I guess I didn't feel
that I should be exempt

30
00:02:07,680 --> 00:02:10,229
from military service
simply because I

31
00:02:10,229 --> 00:02:11,760
was going into ministry.

32
00:02:11,760 --> 00:02:13,830
So I signed up for the reserves.

33
00:02:13,830 --> 00:02:18,990
And that eventually
led to my getting

34
00:02:18,990 --> 00:02:21,360
into the European theater.

35
00:02:21,360 --> 00:02:26,880
I received training for a while

in the specialized training

36

00:02:26,880 --> 00:02:32,610

program in the Army
really to perhaps do

37

00:02:32,610 --> 00:02:35,550

some underground work in France.

38

00:02:35,550 --> 00:02:38,610

They weren't sure how
fast the Allied armies

39

00:02:38,610 --> 00:02:47,700

would be able to advance
across France after the landing

40

00:02:47,700 --> 00:02:49,920

on Northern France.

41

00:02:49,920 --> 00:02:53,130

But that went so fast that--

42

00:02:53,130 --> 00:02:55,120

You yourself were not
in the D-day invasion.

43

00:02:55,120 --> 00:02:56,790

I was not in the D-day invasion.

44

00:02:56,790 --> 00:02:59,440

No.

45

00:02:59,440 --> 00:03:02,170

So I was assigned to
headquarters company

46

00:03:02,170 --> 00:03:05,500

in the 20th Armored Division.

47

00:03:05,500 --> 00:03:07,490

And where were you stationed?

48
00:03:07,490 --> 00:03:11,840
Or where did you go in Europe?

49
00:03:11,840 --> 00:03:13,780
Well, we landed at Le Havre.

50
00:03:13,780 --> 00:03:15,655
And we moved across France--

51
00:03:15,655 --> 00:03:18,250

52
00:03:18,250 --> 00:03:21,760
of course, I say
moved across France.

53
00:03:21,760 --> 00:03:25,360
The front lines had already been
moved all the way to Germany.

54
00:03:25,360 --> 00:03:29,590
But we didn't see action
anywhere outside of Germany.

55
00:03:29,590 --> 00:03:32,560
But we did see the
effects of the war.

56
00:03:32,560 --> 00:03:34,810
And when you go through
a city like Aachen

57
00:03:34,810 --> 00:03:39,601
where no building
is left untouched,

58
00:03:39,601 --> 00:03:43,750
it makes you realize what
a terrible, destructive

59
00:03:43,750 --> 00:03:45,760

experience it is.

60

00:03:45,760 --> 00:03:51,370

And it was when we
moved on beyond Cologne

61

00:03:51,370 --> 00:03:56,230

and down into the Frankfurt
area that our division really

62

00:03:56,230 --> 00:03:58,270

began to see action.

63

00:03:58,270 --> 00:04:03,310

And we were put into
Patton's Third Army.

64

00:04:03,310 --> 00:04:07,000

And then when we got to
Dachau, or into that area,

65

00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:10,480

it was the 42nd Rainbow
Division, the infantry

66

00:04:10,480 --> 00:04:15,640

division, that really were
the ground troops that

67

00:04:15,640 --> 00:04:17,769

first went into Dachau.

68

00:04:17,769 --> 00:04:21,010

But that was made possible
by the 20th Armored which

69

00:04:21,010 --> 00:04:24,250

had all the artillery
and was able to open up

70

00:04:24,250 --> 00:04:27,760

the way for the ground
troops to keep moving them.

71
00:04:27,760 --> 00:04:28,510
You preceded them?

72
00:04:28,510 --> 00:04:32,380
Well, you don't perceive
them because your firepower

73
00:04:32,380 --> 00:04:33,250
overreaches them.

74
00:04:33,250 --> 00:04:35,240
I see.

75
00:04:35,240 --> 00:04:36,800
Yeah.

76
00:04:36,800 --> 00:04:45,470
And did you have any forewarning
of what you were going to see

77
00:04:45,470 --> 00:04:47,900
or what Dachau was?

78
00:04:47,900 --> 00:04:51,860
No, I really had
no idea because we

79
00:04:51,860 --> 00:04:57,110
knew how the Jews and
others who did not

80
00:04:57,110 --> 00:05:01,040
agree with Hitler politically,
who were his political enemies,

81
00:05:01,040 --> 00:05:07,010
so to speak, we
realized that they

82
00:05:07,010 --> 00:05:08,750
were being miserably treated.

83
00:05:08,750 --> 00:05:15,320
But we really had no idea
of the kind of atrocities

84
00:05:15,320 --> 00:05:17,840
that we saw in Dachau.

85
00:05:17,840 --> 00:05:20,090
At least I didn't
as a serviceman.

86
00:05:20,090 --> 00:05:24,560
Perhaps some of
those who were higher

87
00:05:24,560 --> 00:05:28,870
up in the army through
briefings and so forth

88
00:05:28,870 --> 00:05:31,410
had a better idea of
what to expect there.

89
00:05:31,410 --> 00:05:31,910
Right.

90
00:05:31,910 --> 00:05:39,380
But it was really the
day before that I got

91
00:05:39,380 --> 00:05:41,750
an inkling of what I might see.

92
00:05:41,750 --> 00:05:44,740

93
00:05:44,740 --> 00:05:48,400
And what was this inkling?

94
00:05:48,400 --> 00:05:53,710
It was when the colonel who

was in command of our combat

95

00:05:53,710 --> 00:05:54,970
command B--

96

00:05:54,970 --> 00:05:57,580
CCB, as we call it--

97

00:05:57,580 --> 00:06:02,140
said to the major
who was in charge

98

00:06:02,140 --> 00:06:07,690
of our G1 division in the 20th
Armored Division headquarters--

99

00:06:07,690 --> 00:06:09,490
G1 is personnel.

100

00:06:09,490 --> 00:06:14,830
And you have a responsibility
to keep the organization

101

00:06:14,830 --> 00:06:16,810
up to what it should be.

102

00:06:16,810 --> 00:06:20,980
When people are
killed or they're

103

00:06:20,980 --> 00:06:23,560
incapacitated in
one way or another,

104

00:06:23,560 --> 00:06:26,140
you have to see that
there's someone else there

105

00:06:26,140 --> 00:06:28,180
to fill all the spots.

106

00:06:28,180 --> 00:06:30,640

And consequently, you
have to keep in touch

107
00:06:30,640 --> 00:06:34,990
with the units, all the
units, of your division.

108
00:06:34,990 --> 00:06:42,310
And so he said to us that
if you want to see something

109
00:06:42,310 --> 00:06:44,020
that the Nazis have
done and you want

110
00:06:44,020 --> 00:06:47,430
to see how terrible
this regime has been,

111
00:06:47,430 --> 00:06:52,960
you go over to Dachau because
we're going in there tomorrow.

112
00:06:52,960 --> 00:06:57,670
And what you will see,
you'll be glad you saw it,

113
00:06:57,670 --> 00:07:00,280
but you'll never want to see
anything like that again.

114
00:07:00,280 --> 00:07:01,420
And you'll never forget it.

115
00:07:01,420 --> 00:07:04,030
I guarantee you.

116
00:07:04,030 --> 00:07:06,190
Yeah.

117
00:07:06,190 --> 00:07:08,740
Even with these words,
was there anything

118
00:07:08,740 --> 00:07:13,180
to prepare you, really,
for what you were to see?

119
00:07:13,180 --> 00:07:15,010
No, not really.

120
00:07:15,010 --> 00:07:15,600
Not really.

121
00:07:15,600 --> 00:07:18,640

122
00:07:18,640 --> 00:07:21,880
Can you describe the
approach to Dachau?

123
00:07:21,880 --> 00:07:27,030
Can you describe what it looked
like as you came near it?

124
00:07:27,030 --> 00:07:31,410
Well, as we came near the camp,
we were in a Jeep, of course.

125
00:07:31,410 --> 00:07:33,870
And we approached the camp.

126
00:07:33,870 --> 00:07:39,150
Just outside the camp were these
boxcars with the doors open.

127
00:07:39,150 --> 00:07:46,420
And you saw the bodies
lying in there all mangled.

128
00:07:46,420 --> 00:07:51,060
There were a number of
the prisoners from Dachau.

129
00:07:51,060 --> 00:07:54,670

This was my first
experience to see them.

130
00:07:54,670 --> 00:07:56,890
Just really skin and bone.

131
00:07:56,890 --> 00:07:57,932
Were they living or dead?

132
00:07:57,932 --> 00:07:58,432
No.

133
00:07:58,432 --> 00:07:59,200
These were living.

134
00:07:59,200 --> 00:08:02,110
These were prisoners
that just were beginning

135
00:08:02,110 --> 00:08:05,360
to wander out of the camp.

136
00:08:05,360 --> 00:08:09,370
And, you know, I was
amazed that they could even

137
00:08:09,370 --> 00:08:13,570
walk because when you
looked at their arms,

138
00:08:13,570 --> 00:08:15,190
there was no place
on their arm that

139
00:08:15,190 --> 00:08:17,560
was any larger than my wrist.

140
00:08:17,560 --> 00:08:20,410
I could have reached
around their arms or even

141
00:08:20,410 --> 00:08:25,050

around their legs like this.

142

00:08:25,050 --> 00:08:28,000

In other words, the
largest part of a man's leg

143

00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:30,850

was the knee where the joint is.

144

00:08:30,850 --> 00:08:36,070

You could have reached
around the leg above the knee

145

00:08:36,070 --> 00:08:37,750

and below the knee.

146

00:08:37,750 --> 00:08:41,199

And their faces looked
just like the skin

147

00:08:41,199 --> 00:08:43,809

was stretched over skeletons.

148

00:08:43,809 --> 00:08:47,470

And so here they were in their
pajama-like striped prison

149

00:08:47,470 --> 00:08:48,590

clothes.

150

00:08:48,590 --> 00:08:55,720

And this was the first sight,
they just hobbling along.

151

00:08:55,720 --> 00:08:59,080

Some just kind of wandering,
you know, aimlessly.

152

00:08:59,080 --> 00:09:02,140

153

00:09:02,140 --> 00:09:04,090

Had you seen any
pictures or anything

154
00:09:04,090 --> 00:09:06,140
prior to going in or any--

155
00:09:06,140 --> 00:09:06,640
No.

156
00:09:06,640 --> 00:09:07,140
I had not.

157
00:09:07,140 --> 00:09:09,140
--newspaper accounts
or anything?

158
00:09:09,140 --> 00:09:09,640
No.

159
00:09:09,640 --> 00:09:11,470
We had no newspapers.

160
00:09:11,470 --> 00:09:14,280

161
00:09:14,280 --> 00:09:15,550
I had not seen any of that.

162
00:09:15,550 --> 00:09:16,120
No.

163
00:09:16,120 --> 00:09:17,050
OK.

164
00:09:17,050 --> 00:09:18,190
Yeah.

165
00:09:18,190 --> 00:09:19,820
What-- Oh, go ahead.

166
00:09:19,820 --> 00:09:20,320

I'm sorry.

167

00:09:20,320 --> 00:09:23,860

Well, I was just going to
say we entered the gate.

168

00:09:23,860 --> 00:09:26,020

And of course, it
was being guarded

169

00:09:26,020 --> 00:09:28,930

by soldiers of the
42nd Division, which

170

00:09:28,930 --> 00:09:30,220

is the Rainbow Division.

171

00:09:30,220 --> 00:09:33,580

They had this rainbow patch
on all their shoulders.

172

00:09:33,580 --> 00:09:36,550

And there were a
couple of bodies

173

00:09:36,550 --> 00:09:40,150

there in German uniforms.

174

00:09:40,150 --> 00:09:42,010

Another thing I remember--

175

00:09:42,010 --> 00:09:48,520

two huge, vicious
German police-type dogs

176

00:09:48,520 --> 00:09:51,280

lying there that had been shot.

177

00:09:51,280 --> 00:09:57,490

And I remember thinking at
the time about how terrible

178

00:09:57,490 --> 00:10:04,540
have these attacking people
and the frightening thing

179
00:10:04,540 --> 00:10:05,650
that it would be.

180
00:10:05,650 --> 00:10:09,280
The Germans in the uniforms
that were lying there,

181
00:10:09,280 --> 00:10:11,627
were they guards?

182
00:10:11,627 --> 00:10:13,210
I think they were
probably the guards.

183
00:10:13,210 --> 00:10:14,168
Or it could have been--

184
00:10:14,168 --> 00:10:15,670
And do you know who
had killed them?

185
00:10:15,670 --> 00:10:20,080
Well, no doubt it was
our troops because it'd

186
00:10:20,080 --> 00:10:24,730
been less than 24 hours that the
first Americans had approached

187
00:10:24,730 --> 00:10:25,480
the camp.

188
00:10:25,480 --> 00:10:26,800
Yeah.

189
00:10:26,800 --> 00:10:31,300
The people you saw
in the boxcars who

190

00:10:31,300 --> 00:10:37,300

looked so emaciated, did they
appear to be of a certain age?

191

00:10:37,300 --> 00:10:38,470

Or were they all ages?

192

00:10:38,470 --> 00:10:39,762

Were they men as well as women?

193

00:10:39,762 --> 00:10:42,040

I wasn't really
close enough to be

194

00:10:42,040 --> 00:10:47,260

able to tell because this
was just as I drove by.

195

00:10:47,260 --> 00:10:51,280

And you just saw
them lying there

196

00:10:51,280 --> 00:10:55,030

because the doors of the
boxcars had been pulled open.

197

00:10:55,030 --> 00:10:58,360

And here was the first
time that you got

198

00:10:58,360 --> 00:11:02,370

the terrible smell, the stench.

199

00:11:02,370 --> 00:11:05,550

And it was sickening.

200

00:11:05,550 --> 00:11:08,280

But that was only the beginning.

201

00:11:08,280 --> 00:11:11,760

Were there corpses there
too in these boxcars?

202
00:11:11,760 --> 00:11:14,400
Were there--

203
00:11:14,400 --> 00:11:16,450
The ones that were lying
there were corpses.

204
00:11:16,450 --> 00:11:18,210
All at that time were corpses.

205
00:11:18,210 --> 00:11:19,380
Right.

206
00:11:19,380 --> 00:11:21,060
I see.

207
00:11:21,060 --> 00:11:23,850
And this was outside the
perimeter of the camp.

208
00:11:23,850 --> 00:11:25,350
This was just outside the camp.

209
00:11:25,350 --> 00:11:27,090
Right.

210
00:11:27,090 --> 00:11:31,240
What did you see
when you went in?

211
00:11:31,240 --> 00:11:33,060
Well, when we went in--

212
00:11:33,060 --> 00:11:36,870
and I just described
the prisoners

213
00:11:36,870 --> 00:11:39,330
who were wandering outside.

214

00:11:39,330 --> 00:11:42,480
And you saw hundreds of these.

215
00:11:42,480 --> 00:11:48,510
And the site, it's very hard
to describe because on the one

216
00:11:48,510 --> 00:11:51,240
hand, believe it or
not, it was something

217
00:11:51,240 --> 00:11:56,010
that was so deeply
moving and exhilarating

218
00:11:56,010 --> 00:12:00,340
because these people were
experiencing freedom.

219
00:12:00,340 --> 00:12:01,950
They were marching.

220
00:12:01,950 --> 00:12:04,980
Here were the prisoners
all marching up and down

221
00:12:04,980 --> 00:12:10,980
this central street in
the camp and singing

222
00:12:10,980 --> 00:12:13,470
their national anthems.

223
00:12:13,470 --> 00:12:16,650
And so to see that
and to hear it,

224
00:12:16,650 --> 00:12:24,840
you wonder how they could
sing because they were just

225
00:12:24,840 --> 00:12:26,010
at the point of starvation.

226
00:12:26,010 --> 00:12:29,680
You wondered how they had enough
strength and energy to do that.

227
00:12:29,680 --> 00:12:32,220
And as I say, this
was profoundly moving,

228
00:12:32,220 --> 00:12:34,150
just moved you to tears.

229
00:12:34,150 --> 00:12:36,180
They knew that you
were Americans?

230
00:12:36,180 --> 00:12:36,690
Oh, yes.

231
00:12:36,690 --> 00:12:38,160
Because we were in uniform.

232
00:12:38,160 --> 00:12:44,670
And there were the soldiers from
the 42nd Division moving here

233
00:12:44,670 --> 00:12:52,170
and there really looking
over these groups of persons

234
00:12:52,170 --> 00:12:53,550
that were marching.

235
00:12:53,550 --> 00:12:55,920
It seems that people
from different countries

236
00:12:55,920 --> 00:12:57,420
had gotten together.

237
00:12:57,420 --> 00:13:01,500
And you had persons

from one country

238

00:13:01,500 --> 00:13:05,250

here singing their national
anthem from another country

239

00:13:05,250 --> 00:13:08,610

here because they were
kind of grouped together

240

00:13:08,610 --> 00:13:11,670

I understand in the prison.

241

00:13:11,670 --> 00:13:13,350

I mean, they lived
in the same barracks

242

00:13:13,350 --> 00:13:14,850

and so on and so forth.

243

00:13:14,850 --> 00:13:20,040

244

00:13:20,040 --> 00:13:22,650

As you were felt
the exhilaration,

245

00:13:22,650 --> 00:13:28,650

it was just so
overwhelmingly overshadowed

246

00:13:28,650 --> 00:13:34,740

by the terrible
nature of all this

247

00:13:34,740 --> 00:13:42,210

because here they were skin
and bone with their health

248

00:13:42,210 --> 00:13:44,680

practically all gone.

249

00:13:44,680 --> 00:13:54,330
And to realize the suffering
that they've been through,

250
00:13:54,330 --> 00:14:00,570
and as I realized later, these
are the ones that survived.

251
00:14:00,570 --> 00:14:03,900
Here were the others that
were treated more horribly

252
00:14:03,900 --> 00:14:06,360
than they were or
else they did not

253
00:14:06,360 --> 00:14:08,460
have the stamina to survive.

254
00:14:08,460 --> 00:14:13,380
But anyway you take it, to
see this kind of inhumanity

255
00:14:13,380 --> 00:14:17,970
to people was just
really beyond belief.

256
00:14:17,970 --> 00:14:22,320
What nationalities
were these people?

257
00:14:22,320 --> 00:14:28,200
Well, I know their
nationalities more

258
00:14:28,200 --> 00:14:33,060
from what I have read than
what I was able to see there

259
00:14:33,060 --> 00:14:39,612
that day because by being
so emaciated it's very

260

00:14:39,612 --> 00:14:41,070
hard to distinguish,
you know, were

261
00:14:41,070 --> 00:14:43,350
they Northern Europe,
or Southern Europe,

262
00:14:43,350 --> 00:14:45,360
or Eastern or--

263
00:14:45,360 --> 00:14:49,170
and also not able
to speak with them.

264
00:14:49,170 --> 00:14:51,720
But I do know they
were from France.

265
00:14:51,720 --> 00:14:54,210
They were from Poland.

266
00:14:54,210 --> 00:14:56,670
They were from Czechoslovakia.

267
00:14:56,670 --> 00:14:59,550
Some of the other
Eastern countries.

268
00:14:59,550 --> 00:15:01,830
Some from Russia.

269
00:15:01,830 --> 00:15:03,050
And Belgium.

270
00:15:03,050 --> 00:15:06,460

271
00:15:06,460 --> 00:15:08,770
Did they make any
attempt to speak with you

272

00:15:08,770 --> 00:15:12,320
or your fellow soldiers?

273
00:15:12,320 --> 00:15:13,990
No.

274
00:15:13,990 --> 00:15:16,750
And we really didn't give
them that opportunity.

275
00:15:16,750 --> 00:15:19,420
We just wanted to get a
quick look at the camp

276
00:15:19,420 --> 00:15:24,110
and get back and get on
the job, so to speak.

277
00:15:24,110 --> 00:15:30,790
And so we walked down
through the barracks,

278
00:15:30,790 --> 00:15:33,430
went down by the gas chamber.

279
00:15:33,430 --> 00:15:36,250
Did you go inside the barracks?

280
00:15:36,250 --> 00:15:41,620
We just looked in because
they were so dirty.

281
00:15:41,620 --> 00:15:49,540
And we were afraid that
the unsanitary condition

282
00:15:49,540 --> 00:15:53,140
that we didn't want to
stay around there too long.

283
00:15:53,140 --> 00:15:56,500
And still the smell was
what was so terrible.

284
00:15:56,500 --> 00:16:01,120
There was a gas chamber
there and a crematorium?

285
00:16:01,120 --> 00:16:05,800
There was a gas chamber
and crematorium.

286
00:16:05,800 --> 00:16:13,600
When I was over to Dachau later
in '64, I picked up this little

287
00:16:13,600 --> 00:16:14,772
book which--

288
00:16:14,772 --> 00:16:16,230
Might hold it up
just a little bit.

289
00:16:16,230 --> 00:16:19,190
It says, what was it like in the
concentration camp at Dachau?

290
00:16:19,190 --> 00:16:19,690
Yeah.

291
00:16:19,690 --> 00:16:20,190
Right.

292
00:16:20,190 --> 00:16:28,450
And here opposite page 16
we have the crematorium.

293
00:16:28,450 --> 00:16:29,180
The top.

294
00:16:29,180 --> 00:16:29,680
Yeah.

295
00:16:29,680 --> 00:16:33,460
And you have the two--

296
00:16:33,460 --> 00:16:34,220
Ovens.

297
00:16:34,220 --> 00:16:35,030
The two ovens.

298
00:16:35,030 --> 00:16:36,820
Yeah.

299
00:16:36,820 --> 00:16:43,900
And just in this area
here was the gas chamber.

300
00:16:43,900 --> 00:16:49,270
Now, it says in this book
that the gas chamber was not

301
00:16:49,270 --> 00:16:57,670
used in Dachau for gassing
people, that this chamber was--

302
00:16:57,670 --> 00:16:59,530
they were trying to complete it.

303
00:16:59,530 --> 00:17:02,890
And they were hoping
to complete it in '44.

304
00:17:02,890 --> 00:17:05,470
But due to various
problems which

305
00:17:05,470 --> 00:17:08,980
were caused by the
prisoners themselves

306
00:17:08,980 --> 00:17:15,010
who helped to construct it, they
put a monkey wrench into it,

307
00:17:15,010 --> 00:17:15,970

so to speak.

308
00:17:15,970 --> 00:17:17,150
They sabotaged it.

309
00:17:17,150 --> 00:17:17,650
Yeah.

310
00:17:17,650 --> 00:17:25,130
And it was not completed
until near liberation day.

311
00:17:25,130 --> 00:17:28,640
However, in the
gas chamber there

312
00:17:28,640 --> 00:17:33,200
were bodies piled something
like three foot deep.

313
00:17:33,200 --> 00:17:37,730
And from what I
thought at the time

314
00:17:37,730 --> 00:17:40,360
that these persons
had been gassed there.

315
00:17:40,360 --> 00:17:46,550
But from what I read later, I
realized that prisoners were

316
00:17:46,550 --> 00:17:49,080
taken from Dachau
to the gas chamber,

317
00:17:49,080 --> 00:17:52,970
I believe at [? Prins, ?]
and then the bodies

318
00:17:52,970 --> 00:17:57,050
were shipped back to
Dachau for the crematorium.

319
00:17:57,050 --> 00:18:02,630
And so the gas chamber
was simply used as--

320
00:18:02,630 --> 00:18:04,250
pardon the expression--
as the coal

321
00:18:04,250 --> 00:18:10,000
bin to put the bodies in
until they could be burned.

322
00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:13,040

323
00:18:13,040 --> 00:18:16,940
The two other things that
I saw right at this time

324
00:18:16,940 --> 00:18:20,390
outside the gas chamber
was this huge pile

325
00:18:20,390 --> 00:18:27,260
of clothes, these
pajama-like striped uniforms.

326
00:18:27,260 --> 00:18:31,760
And that pile of
clothes, as I recollect,

327
00:18:31,760 --> 00:18:35,150
and I keep asking myself if
my recollections are correct,

328
00:18:35,150 --> 00:18:41,450
but it was 12 to 15 feet high
and at least 40 feet long.

329
00:18:41,450 --> 00:18:44,150
And I guess 12 to
15 feet high being

330
00:18:44,150 --> 00:18:51,770
about the height that someone
could toss a pair of pajamas.

331
00:18:51,770 --> 00:18:55,860
And this was some
indication to me--

332
00:18:55,860 --> 00:18:59,390
and I think to all of us-- as
to how many persons had been

333
00:18:59,390 --> 00:19:04,040
recently put into the furnaces.

334
00:19:04,040 --> 00:19:06,800

335
00:19:06,800 --> 00:19:11,000
They were still
burning the bodies.

336
00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:15,770
The gas chamber, the stench
there was so terrible.

337
00:19:15,770 --> 00:19:20,630
I think I held my breath longer
than I ever have in my life.

338
00:19:20,630 --> 00:19:28,580
And there was a prisoner
that was operating the oven.

339
00:19:28,580 --> 00:19:32,420
And as we came by,
he opened the door

340
00:19:32,420 --> 00:19:36,980
so we could see the
bodies burning in there.

341

00:19:36,980 --> 00:19:40,520

And I have never read
anywhere and no one

342

00:19:40,520 --> 00:19:44,270

has ever told me why
the furnace the ovens

343

00:19:44,270 --> 00:19:46,640

were still in operation.

344

00:19:46,640 --> 00:19:49,940

But I have judged it to
be because they wanted

345

00:19:49,940 --> 00:19:54,410

to continue and dispose of
the bodies that were there

346

00:19:54,410 --> 00:19:55,400

for health reasons.

347

00:19:55,400 --> 00:19:58,220

348

00:19:58,220 --> 00:20:05,480

Were there any Germans in the
camp being held under guard?

349

00:20:05,480 --> 00:20:06,350

Or did you see any?

350

00:20:06,350 --> 00:20:09,410

I did not see any
being held under guard.

351

00:20:09,410 --> 00:20:18,410

But as we walked along
this central street, which

352

00:20:18,410 --> 00:20:20,630

the gas chamber

and the crematorium

353

00:20:20,630 --> 00:20:25,910

are on one side of it
where they were parading,

354

00:20:25,910 --> 00:20:29,900

some of the soldiers
of the 42nd Division

355

00:20:29,900 --> 00:20:34,040

were watching as they passed by.

356

00:20:34,040 --> 00:20:38,060

And we stood there
for a little while.

357

00:20:38,060 --> 00:20:41,720

And we saw, to the best
of my recollection,

358

00:20:41,720 --> 00:20:44,660

there were a
couple, maybe three,

359

00:20:44,660 --> 00:20:48,080

persons that were
pulled out of formation.

360

00:20:48,080 --> 00:20:52,880

And I judged that these
were some of the guards that

361

00:20:52,880 --> 00:20:54,830

had dressed in the
prisoner's clothes

362

00:20:54,830 --> 00:20:59,870

and hoping to get away
because the persons they

363

00:20:59,870 --> 00:21:04,130

were pulling out didn't

look nearly as emaciated.

364

00:21:04,130 --> 00:21:06,740

In fact, they were
not emaciated at all.

365

00:21:06,740 --> 00:21:11,373

And therefore, they were
going to be questioned--

366

00:21:11,373 --> 00:21:12,290

How were they treated?

367

00:21:12,290 --> 00:21:13,082

--and perhaps held.

368

00:21:13,082 --> 00:21:18,280

369

00:21:18,280 --> 00:21:20,560

They weren't treated
with finesse.

370

00:21:20,560 --> 00:21:27,640

But I did not witness,
you know, any brutality.

371

00:21:27,640 --> 00:21:33,880

And yet I must say at the
time that seeing all of this,

372

00:21:33,880 --> 00:21:41,020

I was so mad and so
angry that going back I

373

00:21:41,020 --> 00:21:44,500

have to say I would not have
turned that steering wheel one

374

00:21:44,500 --> 00:21:54,500

inch to avoid any
of the German people

375

00:21:54,500 --> 00:21:57,860

because I felt this was such
a terrible thing that they

376

00:21:57,860 --> 00:21:59,660

had done.

377

00:21:59,660 --> 00:22:02,150

Did you see
townspeople or people

378

00:22:02,150 --> 00:22:07,280

who lived in the community
around the camp at all?

379

00:22:07,280 --> 00:22:08,820

We saw them.

380

00:22:08,820 --> 00:22:09,710

Yes.

381

00:22:09,710 --> 00:22:14,420

But as you know,
until VE Day, we

382

00:22:14,420 --> 00:22:18,740

had the policy of
non-fraternization.

383

00:22:18,740 --> 00:22:20,810

And so you didn't
talk to the Germans.

384

00:22:20,810 --> 00:22:22,550

They didn't talk with you.

385

00:22:22,550 --> 00:22:28,160

And very seldom did the Germans
ever look you in the face.

386

00:22:28,160 --> 00:22:31,450

Very seldom did you

ever see their eyes.

387

00:22:31,450 --> 00:22:33,860

They walked with
their heads down

388

00:22:33,860 --> 00:22:39,050

because they knew
this was the end.

389

00:22:39,050 --> 00:22:46,160

And I think for the people
even that were not supportive--

390

00:22:46,160 --> 00:22:47,930

the people that were
supportive of Hitler,

391

00:22:47,930 --> 00:22:50,600

they knew this was it.

392

00:22:50,600 --> 00:22:54,710

Others who went
along because they

393

00:22:54,710 --> 00:23:00,650

didn't find a way to resist
Hitler, the shame, I think,

394

00:23:00,650 --> 00:23:01,730

was there.

395

00:23:01,730 --> 00:23:03,450

Yeah.

396

00:23:03,450 --> 00:23:05,510

Yeah.

397

00:23:05,510 --> 00:23:09,600

Do you know from what
you heard, or perhaps

398

00:23:09,600 --> 00:23:16,020
that you happened to see, if
any of the people from the town,

399
00:23:16,020 --> 00:23:21,510
from the city, were made
to go through the camp

400
00:23:21,510 --> 00:23:24,070
or made to witness what
happened in that place?

401
00:23:24,070 --> 00:23:24,570
Yeah.

402
00:23:24,570 --> 00:23:26,370
That was done.

403
00:23:26,370 --> 00:23:27,630
While you were there?

404
00:23:27,630 --> 00:23:29,140
Not while we were there.

405
00:23:29,140 --> 00:23:36,030
We were there only maybe
an hour at the most.

406
00:23:36,030 --> 00:23:38,220
But I do know that the
townspeople were brought

407
00:23:38,220 --> 00:23:41,520
in and taken through the camp.

408
00:23:41,520 --> 00:23:44,400
Before or after you were there?

409
00:23:44,400 --> 00:23:45,360
I really don't know.

410
00:23:45,360 --> 00:23:53,370

I have an idea it was after
because as fast as our armies

411
00:23:53,370 --> 00:23:59,010
were moving and as soon as
you quieted your opposition

412
00:23:59,010 --> 00:24:04,230
and were not getting fire
returned, you kept moving.

413
00:24:04,230 --> 00:24:06,120
And then you had
people that were,

414
00:24:06,120 --> 00:24:10,350
what you might say,
there to go after snipers

415
00:24:10,350 --> 00:24:15,960
and where pockets of opposition
broke out here and there.

416
00:24:15,960 --> 00:24:23,790
But it was at least a few
days or maybe several days

417
00:24:23,790 --> 00:24:26,650
before the people
were taken through.

418
00:24:26,650 --> 00:24:30,890

419
00:24:30,890 --> 00:24:33,230
But I do know they
tried to get them

420
00:24:33,230 --> 00:24:36,990
in there before any cleaning
up of the camp was done.

421
00:24:36,990 --> 00:24:41,990

422

00:24:41,990 --> 00:24:44,870

As you went through
the camp, did you

423

00:24:44,870 --> 00:24:55,610

notice any paraphernalia of
torture such as were found

424

00:24:55,610 --> 00:24:57,080

in places like Buchenwald?

425

00:24:57,080 --> 00:24:59,970

426

00:24:59,970 --> 00:25:04,520

Were there atrocities
committed such

427

00:25:04,520 --> 00:25:12,500

as we hear about lampshades
of skin and so on.

428

00:25:12,500 --> 00:25:17,210

We did see some
of the lampshades,

429

00:25:17,210 --> 00:25:27,380

and billfolds, and handbags
that were made from human skin.

430

00:25:27,380 --> 00:25:33,440

And in this book, for
example, or for instance,

431

00:25:33,440 --> 00:25:38,210

mention is made of several items
that were made from human skin

432

00:25:38,210 --> 00:25:44,600

and of the tattooing
that was purposefully

433

00:25:44,600 --> 00:25:51,710

done to get certain designs
into the skin and then later--

434

00:25:51,710 --> 00:25:53,210

To your knowledge,
what had happened

435

00:25:53,210 --> 00:25:55,070

to the Kommandant of Dachau?

436

00:25:55,070 --> 00:25:58,100

Was he arrested?

437

00:25:58,100 --> 00:26:01,676

Was he under guard?

438

00:26:01,676 --> 00:26:04,310

Did he run away at the
time you were there?

439

00:26:04,310 --> 00:26:09,350

I don't remember anything
in regard to that.

440

00:26:09,350 --> 00:26:13,720

441

00:26:13,720 --> 00:26:16,960

What did the camp itself
look like besides--

442

00:26:16,960 --> 00:26:18,760

you mentioned the crematorium.

443

00:26:18,760 --> 00:26:26,000

You mentioned the barracks.

444

00:26:26,000 --> 00:26:28,150

Were there gallows?

445

00:26:28,150 --> 00:26:34,750

The gallows was just
near the pile of clothing

446

00:26:34,750 --> 00:26:38,850

not very far from the
crematorium as I recall.

447

00:26:38,850 --> 00:26:42,260

You had the crematorium and
you had the gas chamber.

448

00:26:42,260 --> 00:26:44,200

And here you saw the gallows.

449

00:26:44,200 --> 00:26:45,990

Yeah.

450

00:26:45,990 --> 00:26:47,280

Yeah.

451

00:26:47,280 --> 00:26:51,750

Did you speak to one another
about what you had seen?

452

00:26:51,750 --> 00:26:56,640

Was there was there any exchange
of thoughts, or feelings,

453

00:26:56,640 --> 00:26:59,610

or emotions?

454

00:26:59,610 --> 00:27:03,030

You know, the
major and I were so

455

00:27:03,030 --> 00:27:09,270

overcome that I think we were
really in a state of grief.

456

00:27:09,270 --> 00:27:13,380

It's kind of like when a

person dies in a family.

457

00:27:13,380 --> 00:27:17,130

You go and everybody
is in a state of shock.

458

00:27:17,130 --> 00:27:21,120

And nobody is communicating.

459

00:27:21,120 --> 00:27:22,660

They're just sitting there.

460

00:27:22,660 --> 00:27:25,830

And I think that's
the way we were

461

00:27:25,830 --> 00:27:28,530

when we went back to our unit.

462

00:27:28,530 --> 00:27:29,220

The whole trip?

463

00:27:29,220 --> 00:27:29,520

Yeah.

464

00:27:29,520 --> 00:27:30,228

You didn't speak?

465

00:27:30,228 --> 00:27:32,010

We hardly said a word.

466

00:27:32,010 --> 00:27:33,670

Hardly said a word.

467

00:27:33,670 --> 00:27:35,100

Did you notice--

468

00:27:35,100 --> 00:27:37,200

Just couldn't believe it.

469

00:27:37,200 --> 00:27:41,430

Did you notice Jews among
those who were there?

470
00:27:41,430 --> 00:27:44,220
Were they in any
way designated or--

471
00:27:44,220 --> 00:27:47,310
I don't recall.

472
00:27:47,310 --> 00:27:50,580
As I say, the prisoners
look so much alike.

473
00:27:50,580 --> 00:27:53,790

474
00:27:53,790 --> 00:27:58,920
You didn't have exchanges
with a couple or with one

475
00:27:58,920 --> 00:28:02,110
at a time, that sort of thing.

476
00:28:02,110 --> 00:28:08,520
However, a few days later,
we had a conversation

477
00:28:08,520 --> 00:28:13,590
with a Jewish physician
who was from Belgium

478
00:28:13,590 --> 00:28:15,750
that was in Dachau.

479
00:28:15,750 --> 00:28:24,580
And he was among those that
were being taken southeast

480
00:28:24,580 --> 00:28:30,190
from Dachau in an effort to
get some of the prisoners

481

00:28:30,190 --> 00:28:34,630

beyond the reach of
the Allied armies.

482

00:28:34,630 --> 00:28:39,070

And there was a forced
march, I understand,

483

00:28:39,070 --> 00:28:42,650

of a considerable
number of the prisoners.

484

00:28:42,650 --> 00:28:51,070

And he told us about how if a
prisoner fell by the roadside

485

00:28:51,070 --> 00:28:52,780

or got the place
where he couldn't walk

486

00:28:52,780 --> 00:28:58,270

any farther that the guards
just shot them and made

487

00:28:58,270 --> 00:28:59,680

the rest move on.

488

00:28:59,680 --> 00:29:08,570

And my recollection is that he
said over 1,000 were killed.

489

00:29:08,570 --> 00:29:11,810

Now, this was what he
knew from the ones that

490

00:29:11,810 --> 00:29:17,180

were not too far in this
march from where he was.

491

00:29:17,180 --> 00:29:20,390

492

00:29:20,390 --> 00:29:21,640
Where did you go after Dachau?

493
00:29:21,640 --> 00:29:24,460

494
00:29:24,460 --> 00:29:28,150
Well, our unit eventually
went on into Austria

495
00:29:28,150 --> 00:29:29,960
and on beyond Salzburg.

496
00:29:29,960 --> 00:29:33,730
And of course, that was the
end of the German resistance.

497
00:29:33,730 --> 00:29:42,610
And a few days after VE
Day, our headquarters unit

498
00:29:42,610 --> 00:29:44,530
was quartered in a
little town called

499
00:29:44,530 --> 00:29:47,510
Prien, which is on Chiemsee.

500
00:29:47,510 --> 00:29:51,190
It's a lake just
off the Autobahn

501
00:29:51,190 --> 00:29:54,970
between Munich and Salzburg,
about 50 miles from Salzburg.

502
00:29:54,970 --> 00:29:59,440

503
00:29:59,440 --> 00:30:03,310
And do you remember VE Day?

504

00:30:03,310 --> 00:30:05,110
Do you remember precisely--

505
00:30:05,110 --> 00:30:06,920
Oh very, very much.

506
00:30:06,920 --> 00:30:07,420
Yeah.

507
00:30:07,420 --> 00:30:08,960
That was a great day.

508
00:30:08,960 --> 00:30:11,800
Yeah.

509
00:30:11,800 --> 00:30:17,530
And after the war
was over in Europe,

510
00:30:17,530 --> 00:30:21,640
did you stay on in
Austria, in that area?

511
00:30:21,640 --> 00:30:22,820
Or did you--

512
00:30:22,820 --> 00:30:23,320
No.

513
00:30:23,320 --> 00:30:29,500
We were there until the
first part of August.

514
00:30:29,500 --> 00:30:31,300
Well, I guess it was the last--

515
00:30:31,300 --> 00:30:36,460
I don't remember the day we
set sail back to the States.

516
00:30:36,460 --> 00:30:40,390
I think it was like

July the 29th or 30th.

517

00:30:40,390 --> 00:30:45,490

But anyhow, we arrived
back in the States.

518

00:30:45,490 --> 00:30:47,720

We were going to go to Japan.

519

00:30:47,720 --> 00:30:53,140

But when we arrived at
Camp Kilmer here in Jersey,

520

00:30:53,140 --> 00:30:57,160

there was a grade school
kid came through the camp

521

00:30:57,160 --> 00:31:00,520

with newspapers, says big
bomb dropped on Japan.

522

00:31:00,520 --> 00:31:03,130

Big bomb dropped on Japan.

523

00:31:03,130 --> 00:31:03,950

August 6.

524

00:31:03,950 --> 00:31:04,540

Yeah.

525

00:31:04,540 --> 00:31:07,870

So that was Hiroshima day.

526

00:31:07,870 --> 00:31:13,030

So we said to ourselves,
well, you know, this is it.

527

00:31:13,030 --> 00:31:14,780

We're going to be
able to stay home.

528

00:31:14,780 --> 00:31:16,500

Yeah.

529

00:31:16,500 --> 00:31:18,460

When you think about
it in retrospect,

530

00:31:18,460 --> 00:31:22,360

how has this experience
of seeing Dachau

531

00:31:22,360 --> 00:31:25,840

affected you and
changed your life?

532

00:31:25,840 --> 00:31:29,960

Or has it changed your life?

533

00:31:29,960 --> 00:31:34,700

Well, I think it's had a
profound effect on my life.

534

00:31:34,700 --> 00:31:43,280

And it's caused me
to realize how easily

535

00:31:43,280 --> 00:31:50,510

and to what great extent
prejudice can be whipped up,

536

00:31:50,510 --> 00:31:57,380

how well-intentioned people
can be thrown off-track

537

00:31:57,380 --> 00:32:02,540

and led to hate
others, to put them

538

00:32:02,540 --> 00:32:09,330

in categories as being less than
human, less than human beings.

539

00:32:09,330 --> 00:32:17,390

And it's, I think, caused me

to want to dedicate myself

540
00:32:17,390 --> 00:32:20,390
to work for peace
and for understanding

541
00:32:20,390 --> 00:32:26,370
and to realize that all of
us, no matter who we are,

542
00:32:26,370 --> 00:32:34,550
no matter what name our faith
or our religion is known by,

543
00:32:34,550 --> 00:32:36,650
we're all God's children.

544
00:32:36,650 --> 00:32:39,275
And we are brothers and sisters.

545
00:32:39,275 --> 00:32:44,030

546
00:32:44,030 --> 00:32:48,770
Science today has made
the world a neighborhood.

547
00:32:48,770 --> 00:32:53,180
We've got to make
it a community.

548
00:32:53,180 --> 00:32:58,840
Did it take you a long time
to speak about what you saw?

549
00:32:58,840 --> 00:33:02,375
Or were you able to muster
the words and the images?

550
00:33:02,375 --> 00:33:05,600

551

00:33:05,600 --> 00:33:11,180
Well, I would say I have spoken
about it more in recent years

552
00:33:11,180 --> 00:33:12,590
than before.

553
00:33:12,590 --> 00:33:14,600
For a long time, it
was just something

554
00:33:14,600 --> 00:33:16,055
that you wanted to forget.

555
00:33:16,055 --> 00:33:21,890

556
00:33:21,890 --> 00:33:24,680
Not that you wanted to
believe it didn't exist,

557
00:33:24,680 --> 00:33:26,990
but it was something you
wanted to put behind you--

558
00:33:26,990 --> 00:33:28,880
I guess that's the best way--

559
00:33:28,880 --> 00:33:32,600
and say you want to look forward
to something better, something

560
00:33:32,600 --> 00:33:34,280
that's different.

561
00:33:34,280 --> 00:33:37,970
But yet the time comes
when you begin to realize

562
00:33:37,970 --> 00:33:40,715
that we need to remember.

563

00:33:40,715 --> 00:33:43,280

564

00:33:43,280 --> 00:33:50,390

Not in the sense of continuing
to wallow in our grief

565

00:33:50,390 --> 00:33:54,800

and so on, but to
remember in the sense

566

00:33:54,800 --> 00:33:58,460

that we are not going to
forget, and we want to do all

567

00:33:58,460 --> 00:34:01,410

we can so it will
not happen again.

568

00:34:01,410 --> 00:34:08,780

And in that regard, when we
took a trip to Europe in 1964,

569

00:34:08,780 --> 00:34:13,679

our family, my wife and
I and our three children,

570

00:34:13,679 --> 00:34:22,020

the oldest of whom I think
was a sophomore in high school

571

00:34:22,020 --> 00:34:26,699

at that time, our youngest being
five years old-- our daughter--

572

00:34:26,699 --> 00:34:33,000

and our second son was,
I guess, in eighth grade.

573

00:34:33,000 --> 00:34:38,370

One of the places that I was
determined we go was to Dachau.

574

00:34:38,370 --> 00:34:41,280
And we did that.

575
00:34:41,280 --> 00:34:45,300
And for one thing,
I wanted to just see

576
00:34:45,300 --> 00:34:49,469
if my recollections and
my memories of the place

577
00:34:49,469 --> 00:34:53,239
itself, how it looked
physically and so forth,

578
00:34:53,239 --> 00:34:57,990
the dimensions of it and so
on, how accurate they were.

579
00:34:57,990 --> 00:35:05,220
And it still was not
an uplifting place.

580
00:35:05,220 --> 00:35:06,510
Far from it.

581
00:35:06,510 --> 00:35:16,260
But it had been so well
sanitized that you just--

582
00:35:16,260 --> 00:35:21,570
even going back there,
it just seemed so mild

583
00:35:21,570 --> 00:35:24,970
compared to what
what you saw before.

584
00:35:24,970 --> 00:35:25,720
So it had changed.

585
00:35:25,720 --> 00:35:31,290
It had been transformed

into a place tourists might

586

00:35:31,290 --> 00:35:33,240

want to see out of curiosity.

587

00:35:33,240 --> 00:35:36,250

How did that make you feel?

588

00:35:36,250 --> 00:35:40,320

Well, I don't know.

589

00:35:40,320 --> 00:35:44,790

I guess the best you can say is
that the people who were there

590

00:35:44,790 --> 00:35:47,690

in '64 and were

going through there,

591

00:35:47,690 --> 00:35:51,960

I said to myself they can go
through and see this place,

592

00:35:51,960 --> 00:35:58,710

they can see these pictures,
they can see this crematorium.

593

00:35:58,710 --> 00:36:00,180

There's no fire.

594

00:36:00,180 --> 00:36:02,190

No one is being burned there.

595

00:36:02,190 --> 00:36:04,860

You can see this gas chamber.

596

00:36:04,860 --> 00:36:06,510

There are no bodies in there.

597

00:36:06,510 --> 00:36:10,680

They can go through
it and still not feel

598
00:36:10,680 --> 00:36:15,420
what it was really like
and how terrible it was.

599
00:36:15,420 --> 00:36:19,620
You said that for years
you couldn't talk about it.

600
00:36:19,620 --> 00:36:23,010
What made you talk about it?

601
00:36:23,010 --> 00:36:26,220
Or what made you,
for example, want

602
00:36:26,220 --> 00:36:28,620
to have your children see it?

603
00:36:28,620 --> 00:36:30,070
Did anything trigger?

604
00:36:30,070 --> 00:36:33,360

605
00:36:33,360 --> 00:36:36,150
Well, that's a little
difficult to say.

606
00:36:36,150 --> 00:36:39,765
However, I think there are some
things like this that happened.

607
00:36:39,765 --> 00:36:43,117

608
00:36:43,117 --> 00:36:44,700
Of course, being a
pastor of a church,

609
00:36:44,700 --> 00:36:48,040
you work with young

people and with youth.

610
00:36:48,040 --> 00:36:52,830
And I remember that at--

611
00:36:52,830 --> 00:36:59,730
I guess this was
in the late '50s.

612
00:36:59,730 --> 00:37:03,960
Some kids were
asked to look at one

613
00:37:03,960 --> 00:37:09,900
of the war series on
television as an assignment

614
00:37:09,900 --> 00:37:14,940
for their history class.

615
00:37:14,940 --> 00:37:19,710
And this particular assignment
had to do with the move

616
00:37:19,710 --> 00:37:21,300
up through Italy.

617
00:37:21,300 --> 00:37:22,860
And I heard them talking.

618
00:37:22,860 --> 00:37:25,620
And one of them said
to the other says,

619
00:37:25,620 --> 00:37:29,020
do you think it
really was that bad?

620
00:37:29,020 --> 00:37:30,240
And the other one says no.

621
00:37:30,240 --> 00:37:35,430

Says I think they just
kind of doctor it up on TV.

622
00:37:35,430 --> 00:37:38,280
Well, now.

623
00:37:38,280 --> 00:37:40,020
You know.

624
00:37:40,020 --> 00:37:43,740
You go and it's '64 in Dachau.

625
00:37:43,740 --> 00:37:45,030
It's not doctored up.

626
00:37:45,030 --> 00:37:49,330
I mean, it's something
far less than what it was.

627
00:37:49,330 --> 00:37:53,520
And I begin to say
to myself people

628
00:37:53,520 --> 00:37:56,120
who've been there
I've got to speak up.

629
00:37:56,120 --> 00:38:01,890
And at that particular time,
I said something to these kids

630
00:38:01,890 --> 00:38:03,370
about the concentration camps.

631
00:38:03,370 --> 00:38:06,670
I said the things you
read and heard, I said,

632
00:38:06,670 --> 00:38:12,890
do you think those have been
doctored to make an impression?

633

00:38:12,890 --> 00:38:14,280
Well they didn't know.

634
00:38:14,280 --> 00:38:14,850
Maybe.

635
00:38:14,850 --> 00:38:16,267
They argued about
it a little bit.

636
00:38:16,267 --> 00:38:18,690
Some on one side and
some of the other.

637
00:38:18,690 --> 00:38:23,150
And I said to them, well,
you know, I was there.

638
00:38:23,150 --> 00:38:26,430
And then they began
to question me.

639
00:38:26,430 --> 00:38:31,300
And you could see them
realize it is true.

640
00:38:31,300 --> 00:38:34,990

641
00:38:34,990 --> 00:38:37,930
And I think that's what we've
got to try to communicate.

642
00:38:37,930 --> 00:38:41,730
How did your children react to
the experience of going there?

643
00:38:41,730 --> 00:38:44,310

644
00:38:44,310 --> 00:38:47,220
Well, I think it made a
lasting impression on them.

645
00:38:47,220 --> 00:38:51,470

646
00:38:51,470 --> 00:38:59,330
They ask certain questions
about my army experience

647
00:38:59,330 --> 00:39:06,260
and the things that were
there that they didn't see.

648
00:39:06,260 --> 00:39:08,720
Like the people, for example.

649
00:39:08,720 --> 00:39:11,780
How they looked, how they acted.

650
00:39:11,780 --> 00:39:13,710
They read the book.

651
00:39:13,710 --> 00:39:17,000
And I don't think
they'll ever forget.

652
00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:21,250

653
00:39:21,250 --> 00:39:23,950
Prior to seeing it, had
they asked about it?

654
00:39:23,950 --> 00:39:27,790
Or was it only as an
outgrowth of seeing it?

655
00:39:27,790 --> 00:39:32,890
Mostly in connection
with studies in school.

656
00:39:32,890 --> 00:39:34,960
They knew that I'd been there.

657
00:39:34,960 --> 00:39:39,760
And as I say, we didn't
talk very much about it

658
00:39:39,760 --> 00:39:40,360
in our family.

659
00:39:40,360 --> 00:39:43,930

660
00:39:43,930 --> 00:39:47,090
And of course with
my interest in this

661
00:39:47,090 --> 00:39:53,830
is continued because
teachers in communities

662
00:39:53,830 --> 00:39:58,420
where I've have been doing
something on Holocaust studies.

663
00:39:58,420 --> 00:40:03,520
And they've asked me and others
like me to come and speak

664
00:40:03,520 --> 00:40:05,570
and to share and so on.

665
00:40:05,570 --> 00:40:10,330
So this is how I've
continued to be involved.

666
00:40:10,330 --> 00:40:13,910
Well, I want to thank you
for sharing with us tonight.

667
00:40:13,910 --> 00:40:20,770
And I am happy that you were
able to be here and share

668

00:40:20,770 --> 00:40:21,640
your experiences.

669
00:40:21,640 --> 00:40:25,330
But I'm particularly
gratified that this

670
00:40:25,330 --> 00:40:29,510
has made the kind of
impression on you that it has.

671
00:40:29,510 --> 00:40:33,827
And I hope you will continue
to carry your message forward.

672
00:40:33,827 --> 00:40:35,410
Thank you very much,
Reverend Holland.

673
00:40:35,410 --> 00:40:36,490
Thank you very much.

674
00:40:36,490 --> 00:40:37,365
It's been a pleasure.

675
00:40:37,365 --> 00:40:38,880
Thank you.

676
00:40:38,880 --> 00:40:47,000