

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:47,630

2

00:00:47,630 --> 00:00:49,940

This is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:49,940 --> 00:00:52,880

Interview with Anthony  
Acevedo conducted

4

00:00:52,880 --> 00:00:56,930

by Kyra Schuster on  
October 13th, 2010

5

00:00:56,930 --> 00:00:58,790

at the United States  
Holocaust Memorial

6

00:00:58,790 --> 00:01:02,210

Museum in Washington DC.

7

00:01:02,210 --> 00:01:04,640

So let's start at  
the very beginning.

8

00:01:04,640 --> 00:01:07,380

When and where were you born?

9

00:01:07,380 --> 00:01:18,800

I was born in San Bernardino,  
California, 1924, July 31st.

10

00:01:18,800 --> 00:01:22,370

OK, and can you tell me about  
your parents, their names

11

00:01:22,370 --> 00:01:25,040

and where they were  
from, what prompted them

12

00:01:25,040 --> 00:01:28,070  
to come to the United States?

13  
00:01:28,070 --> 00:01:37,700  
My mother was born in  
Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico.

14  
00:01:37,700 --> 00:01:41,090  
My father was born  
in Mexico City.

15  
00:01:41,090 --> 00:01:42,818  
That was my understanding.

16  
00:01:42,818 --> 00:01:46,500

17  
00:01:46,500 --> 00:01:51,140  
And they came to  
the United States--

18  
00:01:51,140 --> 00:01:57,300  
my father came along  
but not together,

19  
00:01:57,300 --> 00:02:04,690  
since he met her with time  
while he was going to school.

20  
00:02:04,690 --> 00:02:06,410  
I understood he was  
going to school.

21  
00:02:06,410 --> 00:02:10,990  
He was learning to fly and  
little things like that.

22  
00:02:10,990 --> 00:02:11,560  
OK.

23  
00:02:11,560 --> 00:02:13,280  
What were their names?

24

00:02:13,280 --> 00:02:18,754

My father's named Francisco  
Guillermo Acevedo,

25

00:02:18,754 --> 00:02:24,530

and my mother was  
Maria Luisa Contreras.

26

00:02:24,530 --> 00:02:26,600

Do you know when  
they got married?

27

00:02:26,600 --> 00:02:29,790

I never knew what  
date they got married.

28

00:02:29,790 --> 00:02:30,290

OK.

29

00:02:30,290 --> 00:02:32,165

Did they get married in  
California or Mexico?

30

00:02:32,165 --> 00:02:35,120

31

00:02:35,120 --> 00:02:37,820

I think they must have  
gotten married in California,

32

00:02:37,820 --> 00:02:40,070

but they never  
pursued the thing,

33

00:02:40,070 --> 00:02:42,620

because I was never asked.

34

00:02:42,620 --> 00:02:44,360

And how many siblings?

35

00:02:44,360 --> 00:02:48,080

Were you the oldest child?

36  
00:02:48,080 --> 00:02:51,720  
Myself and my sister.

37  
00:02:51,720 --> 00:02:57,440  
She was born in 1925,  
October the 15th,

38  
00:02:57,440 --> 00:03:00,590  
which is her birthday in  
just a couple of days.

39  
00:03:00,590 --> 00:03:01,670  
And her name?

40  
00:03:01,670 --> 00:03:02,950  
Maria Luisa.

41  
00:03:02,950 --> 00:03:11,120  
OK, and what did your  
parents do for a career?

42  
00:03:11,120 --> 00:03:17,000  
My mother was a  
housewife and my father,

43  
00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:20,120  
from the beginning  
I understood that he

44  
00:03:20,120 --> 00:03:24,890  
worked for a company,  
the Eljer Company then.

45  
00:03:24,890 --> 00:03:31,130  
They called it sanitation,  
which was mainly

46  
00:03:31,130 --> 00:03:39,900  
equipment for bathrooms,  
and from what I understood,

47

00:03:39,900 --> 00:03:42,210  
he was working and  
then pursuing to make

48  
00:03:42,210 --> 00:03:46,120  
a career for engineering.

49  
00:03:46,120 --> 00:03:49,530  
And as a Mexican American  
growing up in California,

50  
00:03:49,530 --> 00:03:50,970  
what was it like for you?

51  
00:03:50,970 --> 00:03:55,750  
At the time, how were you  
treated by other people?

52  
00:03:55,750 --> 00:03:58,120  
Being born in San  
Bernardino, California.

53  
00:03:58,120 --> 00:04:01,690

54  
00:04:01,690 --> 00:04:06,130  
My mother died when I was  
a year and a half old,

55  
00:04:06,130 --> 00:04:13,700  
and so that left us  
my sister and me,

56  
00:04:13,700 --> 00:04:20,930  
and I recall when I was next to  
her at the time of her death.

57  
00:04:20,930 --> 00:04:24,360  
My sister was crawling  
all over the place

58  
00:04:24,360 --> 00:04:27,420  
and she didn't know

what was happening.

59

00:04:27,420 --> 00:04:33,260

So my father decided  
after her death

60

00:04:33,260 --> 00:04:42,890

to move to Pasadena, where  
he four years later met

61

00:04:42,890 --> 00:04:48,425

my other mother, my stepmother,  
and her name was Maria Luisa.

62

00:04:48,425 --> 00:04:50,940

63

00:04:50,940 --> 00:04:57,140

And she was born  
in Durango, Mexico

64

00:04:57,140 --> 00:04:58,955

in the little town of Topia.

65

00:04:58,955 --> 00:05:01,940

66

00:05:01,940 --> 00:05:06,410

And so when I lived  
in Pasadena, I

67

00:05:06,410 --> 00:05:10,790

grew up with what you  
call half-cousins.

68

00:05:10,790 --> 00:05:14,000

To me, they turned out to be  
more cousins than my uncle

69

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:18,560

and cousins, because I didn't  
know my cousins very well.

70

00:05:18,560 --> 00:05:21,350

71

00:05:21,350 --> 00:05:24,425

What was it like growing up?

72

00:05:24,425 --> 00:05:25,550

Where did you go to school?

73

00:05:25,550 --> 00:05:29,140

74

00:05:29,140 --> 00:05:37,950

I went to school in the  
east side of Pasadena.

75

00:05:37,950 --> 00:05:43,890

They call it the Lamanda  
Park, and the little area

76

00:05:43,890 --> 00:05:55,980

was what you call a barrio  
viejo, a little town or village

77

00:05:55,980 --> 00:05:59,970

with no sidewalks,  
no pavement at all,

78

00:05:59,970 --> 00:06:11,520

and an elementary school  
called Fremont School where

79

00:06:11,520 --> 00:06:14,730

Mexican Americans  
could not associate

80

00:06:14,730 --> 00:06:18,250

with Americans at that time.

81

00:06:18,250 --> 00:06:24,720

So we were all Mexican-American,  
born in the United States,

82  
00:06:24,720 --> 00:06:27,660  
not to associate  
with the Americans.

83  
00:06:27,660 --> 00:06:30,018  
Do you know why not?

84  
00:06:30,018 --> 00:06:31,020  
Beg pardon?

85  
00:06:31,020 --> 00:06:32,850  
Do you know why not?

86  
00:06:32,850 --> 00:06:34,260  
Were there reasons why?

87  
00:06:34,260 --> 00:06:36,300  
We never knew.

88  
00:06:36,300 --> 00:06:40,200  
It was just a question mark  
that we had in our minds

89  
00:06:40,200 --> 00:06:48,730  
why we were not allowed to  
play or associate with them.

90  
00:06:48,730 --> 00:06:54,060  
And the most funny thing  
is that my teacher--

91  
00:06:54,060 --> 00:06:57,580

92  
00:06:57,580 --> 00:07:01,360  
and I remember her,  
Mrs. Greenhoff--

93  
00:07:01,360 --> 00:07:06,220  
her husband was the  
conductor Mr Greenhoff,



94

00:07:06,220 --> 00:07:14,830  
and he turned out to be my  
godfather and first communion,

95

00:07:14,830 --> 00:07:17,950  
was a very nice person  
even though they

96

00:07:17,950 --> 00:07:21,010  
were teachers at that school.

97

00:07:21,010 --> 00:07:24,280  
So you had separate classes  
than the other students?

98

00:07:24,280 --> 00:07:27,430  
The American students, you had  
separate classes from them?

99

00:07:27,430 --> 00:07:33,160  
No Americans were to associate  
in that school at all.

100

00:07:33,160 --> 00:07:37,150  
And how did that  
affect you as a child?

101

00:07:37,150 --> 00:07:40,720  
Well, it was just a question.

102

00:07:40,720 --> 00:07:43,750  
We didn't know why  
until we find out that

103

00:07:43,750 --> 00:07:50,850  
even if we went to Brookside  
Park up towards the Rose Bowl

104

00:07:50,850 --> 00:07:59,440  
and we went swimming, then  
we were to swim in that area

105

00:07:59,440 --> 00:08:04,280

where only

Mexican-Americans swam.

106

00:08:04,280 --> 00:08:13,650

And I knew that the blacks

couldn't swim in our area

107

00:08:13,650 --> 00:08:17,270

because we weren't to

associate with them,

108

00:08:17,270 --> 00:08:22,580

and only the whites were

to swim in their area.

109

00:08:22,580 --> 00:08:28,310

And how did that make

you feel as a child?

110

00:08:28,310 --> 00:08:37,039

Well it just felt like not

wanted, but at that moment

111

00:08:37,039 --> 00:08:38,480

we let it pass.

112

00:08:38,480 --> 00:08:39,770

We didn't say nothing.

113

00:08:39,770 --> 00:08:41,600

Mm-hmm.

114

00:08:41,600 --> 00:08:44,790

And what was the general

treatment otherwise,

115

00:08:44,790 --> 00:08:45,665

like of your parents?

116

00:08:45,665 --> 00:08:50,100

117  
00:08:50,100 --> 00:08:54,990  
My father remained  
like a person incognate

118  
00:08:54,990 --> 00:09:00,240  
because he went about his  
own business, never thought

119  
00:09:00,240 --> 00:09:08,460  
about us or saying, well,  
don't worry, no nothing.

120  
00:09:08,460 --> 00:09:09,640  
Just get along.

121  
00:09:09,640 --> 00:09:15,870  
So as I started to grow  
up little by little,

122  
00:09:15,870 --> 00:09:20,270  
then with my half-cousins,  
there was Ernesto Prieto.

123  
00:09:20,270 --> 00:09:24,840

124  
00:09:24,840 --> 00:09:33,630  
He was the son of the  
aunt of my stepmother,

125  
00:09:33,630 --> 00:09:36,510  
so that was a family together.

126  
00:09:36,510 --> 00:09:42,090  
And so we were selling  
papers in the corners,

127  
00:09:42,090 --> 00:09:51,000  
delivering papers to the houses,  
and we walked from Chihuahuita.

128

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:53,790  
It was called a little barrio.

129  
00:09:53,790 --> 00:09:59,640  
And we head down Colorado  
Street to Hill Street

130  
00:09:59,640 --> 00:10:02,940  
and get ready for  
New Year's Day,

131  
00:10:02,940 --> 00:10:05,590  
and sell papers for everybody.

132  
00:10:05,590 --> 00:10:07,620  
And so they use the  
paper, the newspapers,

133  
00:10:07,620 --> 00:10:12,000  
for pillows, or cover-up  
while the Rose Parade

134  
00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:14,010  
was able to start.

135  
00:10:14,010 --> 00:10:16,223  
And did you go to  
church growing up?

136  
00:10:16,223 --> 00:10:17,110  
Beg pardon?

137  
00:10:17,110 --> 00:10:17,985  
Did you go to church?

138  
00:10:17,985 --> 00:10:20,910

139  
00:10:20,910 --> 00:10:25,440  
Our church was right  
there at the barrio.

140

00:10:25,440 --> 00:10:28,413

141

00:10:28,413 --> 00:10:33,030

Its name was St. Joseph Church.

142

00:10:33,030 --> 00:10:41,280

And with time, I found  
out it disappeared.

143

00:10:41,280 --> 00:10:45,330

That was when I left for Mexico.

144

00:10:45,330 --> 00:10:48,260

So why did you go  
back to Mexico?

145

00:10:48,260 --> 00:10:57,200

At the time-- well, it was  
sort of strange that my mother

146

00:10:57,200 --> 00:10:59,030

started to--

147

00:10:59,030 --> 00:11:02,000

well, my stepmother  
but I call her mother--

148

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:05,810

I noticed that she  
started to have somebody

149

00:11:05,810 --> 00:11:09,650

pack her furniture  
and all our furniture,

150

00:11:09,650 --> 00:11:17,250

and and then a truck came by and  
picked up all that furniture.

151

00:11:17,250 --> 00:11:20,780

And so then we asked  
her, what's happening?

152  
00:11:20,780 --> 00:11:21,550  
Where you going?

153  
00:11:21,550 --> 00:11:24,050  
They said, no, we're all going.

154  
00:11:24,050 --> 00:11:25,530  
And we said, where are we going?

155  
00:11:25,530 --> 00:11:27,800  
He says, we're going to Mexico.

156  
00:11:27,800 --> 00:11:29,540  
I said, why?

157  
00:11:29,540 --> 00:11:34,430  
Is it because we were told  
to leave the United States?

158  
00:11:34,430 --> 00:11:36,820  
But does my father  
know about it?

159  
00:11:36,820 --> 00:11:38,630  
He knows about it.

160  
00:11:38,630 --> 00:11:44,370  
My father was in Mexico  
and he had a good job.

161  
00:11:44,370 --> 00:11:48,080  
He graduated from  
engineering and became

162  
00:11:48,080 --> 00:11:51,680  
an architectural  
engineer, and all things

163  
00:11:51,680 --> 00:11:56,060  
that we didn't even know  
when we were growing.

164  
00:11:56,060 --> 00:11:59,660  
Everything was incognate.

165  
00:11:59,660 --> 00:12:04,550  
And so at that  
time, by that time

166  
00:12:04,550 --> 00:12:08,070  
I was about 9 and 1/2  
years old, close to 10.

167  
00:12:08,070 --> 00:12:14,270  
And where are we heading,  
I asked my mother.

168  
00:12:14,270 --> 00:12:18,830  
They said we're heading for  
Durango, Durango, Mexico.

169  
00:12:18,830 --> 00:12:24,530  
And so when we  
arrived in Durango,

170  
00:12:24,530 --> 00:12:33,470  
I remember that my father  
had a house rented out

171  
00:12:33,470 --> 00:12:38,870  
for us to live just a few  
days before they get a house.

172  
00:12:38,870 --> 00:12:41,750  
And so I remember  
sleeping on top

173  
00:12:41,750 --> 00:12:47,250  
of that one of those  
big suitcases that

174  
00:12:47,250 --> 00:12:52,910  
used to travel in the  
big ships one time,

175  
00:12:52,910 --> 00:12:56,150  
and it was funny how we  
had to sleep on top of that

176  
00:12:56,150 --> 00:12:59,030  
and fall down.

177  
00:12:59,030 --> 00:13:05,370  
And kid stuff that we followed.

178  
00:13:05,370 --> 00:13:08,540  
And so I started  
to grow up then,

179  
00:13:08,540 --> 00:13:12,680  
and my father began  
to increase his title,

180  
00:13:12,680 --> 00:13:15,800  
his engineering, his business.

181  
00:13:15,800 --> 00:13:19,040  
He became well known.

182  
00:13:19,040 --> 00:13:23,600  
And it was altogether a  
different custom and life

183  
00:13:23,600 --> 00:13:26,990  
living in Mexico compared  
to in the United States.

184  
00:13:26,990 --> 00:13:29,630  
How so?

185  
00:13:29,630 --> 00:13:32,960  
Oh, they called me  
the gringo because I

186  
00:13:32,960 --> 00:13:36,200  
was born in the



United States, and I

187  
00:13:36,200 --> 00:13:40,580  
know half English  
and half Spanish,

188  
00:13:40,580 --> 00:13:44,460  
and that was kind of difficult,  
but before I knew it,

189  
00:13:44,460 --> 00:13:49,020  
I had a teacher  
tell me, he says,

190  
00:13:49,020 --> 00:13:58,050  
I want you to help me to teach  
this children to speak English,

191  
00:13:58,050 --> 00:13:59,760  
and she was an English teacher.

192  
00:13:59,760 --> 00:14:01,650  
So I tag along.

193  
00:14:01,650 --> 00:14:04,550

194  
00:14:04,550 --> 00:14:09,620  
And so you were going to  
school, and your father

195  
00:14:09,620 --> 00:14:10,820  
was now working.

196  
00:14:10,820 --> 00:14:13,370  
Where was your  
father working now?

197  
00:14:13,370 --> 00:14:16,400  
My father became a  
Director of Public Works

198

00:14:16,400 --> 00:14:25,940  
for the State of Durango,  
and so at that time

199  
00:14:25,940 --> 00:14:42,270  
as I started to grow up, it was  
the time when the Olympics were

200  
00:14:42,270 --> 00:14:50,190  
supposed to start,  
and Mexico was

201  
00:14:50,190 --> 00:14:57,220  
named the nation for  
the World Olympics,

202  
00:14:57,220 --> 00:15:01,170  
and so my father decided to  
build a big Olympic swimming

203  
00:15:01,170 --> 00:15:06,690  
pool, which was about 100  
meters long by 50 meters

204  
00:15:06,690 --> 00:15:16,290  
wide with all the decorations as  
an Olympic swimming pool would

205  
00:15:16,290 --> 00:15:24,000  
look like with a  
transmitter along the side

206  
00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:28,690  
of that same pool so that people  
could listen to the music,

207  
00:15:28,690 --> 00:15:32,840  
and [INAUDIBLE].

208  
00:15:32,840 --> 00:15:38,386  
So while I was going  
to school, we all

209

00:15:38,386 --> 00:15:42,710  
got excited about the  
Olympics, but then there

210  
00:15:42,710 --> 00:15:45,740  
were two other fellas.

211  
00:15:45,740 --> 00:15:52,160  
And myself, Leo, they always  
called us the three musketeers.

212  
00:15:52,160 --> 00:15:56,870  
And I like to do exercise.

213  
00:15:56,870 --> 00:16:01,370  
And so I trained by  
looking at the books

214  
00:16:01,370 --> 00:16:06,950  
my father had of Charles  
Atlas, well known then.

215  
00:16:06,950 --> 00:16:15,170  
And every morning, we used to--

216  
00:16:15,170 --> 00:16:18,630  
all these fellows would  
come over and pick me up.

217  
00:16:18,630 --> 00:16:21,240  
And we'd go swimming  
at the swimming

218  
00:16:21,240 --> 00:16:23,610  
pool, 5:00 in the morning.

219  
00:16:23,610 --> 00:16:28,590  
And then about 7:00,  
we head back to school.

220  
00:16:28,590 --> 00:16:34,050  
This time, it was about--

221

00:16:34,050 --> 00:16:37,260

the war had started--

222

00:16:37,260 --> 00:16:40,260

the '40s, 1940.

223

00:16:40,260 --> 00:16:47,170

And Corolla, Antonio  
Corolla, was my friend.

224

00:16:47,170 --> 00:16:56,850

He was the son of a  
diplomat, Congressman.

225

00:16:56,850 --> 00:17:04,319

And Jose Blanco, Pepe  
Blanco, they'd call him Pepe,

226

00:17:04,319 --> 00:17:09,540

he was the nephew of  
a railroad conductor.

227

00:17:09,540 --> 00:17:12,150

228

00:17:12,150 --> 00:17:16,280

Which, knew the  
Morse code very well.

229

00:17:16,280 --> 00:17:19,819

So we went out swimming.

230

00:17:19,819 --> 00:17:32,270

And Pepe Blanco says, Atlas,  
Atlas, there's a spy going on.

231

00:17:32,270 --> 00:17:35,870

I said, why, why do you know?

232

00:17:35,870 --> 00:17:37,160

W were very low voiced.

233

00:17:37,160 --> 00:17:40,190

Because we would hear  
music in the distance.

234

00:17:40,190 --> 00:17:42,860

And that was from  
the transmitter.

235

00:17:42,860 --> 00:17:45,410

And he says that there's  
a Morse code going on.

236

00:17:45,410 --> 00:17:51,480

And there are submarines in  
Baja, California, connected

237

00:17:51,480 --> 00:17:55,900

with the people.

238

00:17:55,900 --> 00:17:57,613

And I said, but, how?

239

00:17:57,613 --> 00:17:58,280

How do you know?

240

00:17:58,280 --> 00:18:04,410

Yeah, I hear  
[IMITATING MORSE CODE]..

241

00:18:04,410 --> 00:18:08,720

So I said, we'd better  
get to your father.

242

00:18:08,720 --> 00:18:13,520

So we decided-- we dashed out  
out of that swimming pool.

243

00:18:13,520 --> 00:18:16,250

And we headed back to school.

244

00:18:16,250 --> 00:18:18,440

And they went to school.

245

00:18:18,440 --> 00:18:22,080

And I went to his office,  
my father's office.

246

00:18:22,080 --> 00:18:25,310

And I knocked quick at  
the door of his office.

247

00:18:25,310 --> 00:18:29,280

And I told him  
about the situation.

248

00:18:29,280 --> 00:18:32,960

And soon, before you knew  
it, he had them arrested.

249

00:18:32,960 --> 00:18:38,930

And sure enough, they were  
spying for the Nazis, Germany.

250

00:18:38,930 --> 00:18:46,250

Well, I realized then that we  
had a German colony in Mexico.

251

00:18:46,250 --> 00:18:53,700

And here, I was associated  
well with a group

252

00:18:53,700 --> 00:18:57,450

of fellows, the Boy Scouts.

253

00:18:57,450 --> 00:19:00,510

We had formed a boy scout group.

254

00:19:00,510 --> 00:19:03,630

And our scout master,  
Boy Scout Master,

255

00:19:03,630 --> 00:19:08,850

was the Schrader, a Schrader  
family that owned a hardware

256

00:19:08,850 --> 00:19:12,080  
store there in Durango.

257

00:19:12,080 --> 00:19:22,960  
And so by that time, I  
was 17 and 1/2 years old.

258

00:19:22,960 --> 00:19:29,610  
And then the consul general  
of the United States

259

00:19:29,610 --> 00:19:32,130  
was after me because  
of my age and get

260

00:19:32,130 --> 00:19:36,945  
ready to go back in the United  
States and serve your country.

261

00:19:36,945 --> 00:19:40,580

262

00:19:40,580 --> 00:19:42,980  
Yes, sir.

263

00:19:42,980 --> 00:19:44,960  
He was a very good friend.

264

00:19:44,960 --> 00:19:47,930  
He was a very nice  
friend of ours.

265

00:19:47,930 --> 00:19:55,460  
And so I said goodbye  
to my parents.

266

00:19:55,460 --> 00:20:01,320  
And my mother  
prepared me [SPANISH]

267

00:20:01,320 --> 00:20:10,550  
She took my coat pocket,

\$200, put a safety pin on it.

268  
00:20:10,550 --> 00:20:14,120  
She said, this is that  
nobody can steal it from you.

269  
00:20:14,120 --> 00:20:16,130  
Use it when you can.

270  
00:20:16,130 --> 00:20:18,530  
Yeah, but how am I going  
to take it off of there?

271  
00:20:18,530 --> 00:20:22,460  
It's secured.

272  
00:20:22,460 --> 00:20:25,460  
Always funny things  
that one asks.

273  
00:20:25,460 --> 00:20:31,220  
But anyway, I hid it.

274  
00:20:31,220 --> 00:20:32,900  
I said goodbye to my parents.

275  
00:20:32,900 --> 00:20:44,930  
And I took the train from  
Durango to the city of Torreón.

276  
00:20:44,930 --> 00:20:48,800  
I transferred over  
to another train.

277  
00:20:48,800 --> 00:20:55,360  
And at that time, I didn't  
know the traveling situation.

278  
00:20:55,360 --> 00:20:57,760  
Because I never travel.

279  
00:20:57,760 --> 00:21:06,790



And I had my little satchel  
with me and little suitcase.

280  
00:21:06,790 --> 00:21:12,550  
And I heard somebody  
say, [WHISPERING],,

281  
00:21:12,550 --> 00:21:16,810  
just sort of whistling  
at me through the window

282  
00:21:16,810 --> 00:21:21,780  
the other coach train.

283  
00:21:21,780 --> 00:21:23,710  
And I went up.

284  
00:21:23,710 --> 00:21:25,470  
And he says, give it to me.

285  
00:21:25,470 --> 00:21:28,000  
He say, I have a  
seat here for you.

286  
00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:30,900  
So we made friends.

287  
00:21:30,900 --> 00:21:35,580  
And we became friends  
until a year later.

288  
00:21:35,580 --> 00:21:37,260  
But I'll tell the  
story about that.

289  
00:21:37,260 --> 00:21:39,810

290  
00:21:39,810 --> 00:21:43,980  
I said goodbye to him.

291  
00:21:43,980 --> 00:21:46,890

Because he wants to  
meet his sister there

292  
00:21:46,890 --> 00:21:50,460  
in Juarez across the border.

293  
00:21:50,460 --> 00:21:55,710  
And I headed to Pasadena,  
Back to my cousin's.

294  
00:21:55,710 --> 00:22:01,320  
And that's where I headed for  
induction the following day.

295  
00:22:01,320 --> 00:22:11,020  
And then the head of  
the induction center

296  
00:22:11,020 --> 00:22:13,360  
said that I need another  
semester of school.

297  
00:22:13,360 --> 00:22:16,910

298  
00:22:16,910 --> 00:22:18,680  
And I said, why?

299  
00:22:18,680 --> 00:22:22,250  
I said, well, we  
don't evaluate--

300  
00:22:22,250 --> 00:22:24,830

301  
00:22:24,830 --> 00:22:29,010  
what you went through in  
your school is not enough.

302  
00:22:29,010 --> 00:22:31,310  
I said I went to school  
in 7:00 in the morning

303

00:22:31,310 --> 00:22:36,110  
till 6:00 in the evening,  
isn't that enough?

304

00:22:36,110 --> 00:22:39,560  
And I says they teach  
us very much over there,

305

00:22:39,560 --> 00:22:42,860  
more than they teach you here.

306

00:22:42,860 --> 00:22:44,360  
I couldn't say any more.

307

00:22:44,360 --> 00:22:49,250  
He says, but you  
need one semester.

308

00:22:49,250 --> 00:22:51,170  
So I went to Pasadena  
City College.

309

00:22:51,170 --> 00:22:54,140  
And I took a course.

310

00:22:54,140 --> 00:22:58,820  
And I passed by  
three-month certification.

311

00:22:58,820 --> 00:23:01,190  
And I got my diploma.

312

00:23:01,190 --> 00:23:07,410  
And I'm in the army.

313

00:23:07,410 --> 00:23:16,030  
So before I knew it, I was in  
Oregon, in Camp Adair, Oregon.

314

00:23:16,030 --> 00:23:17,230  
We call it Swamp Adair.

315

00:23:17,230 --> 00:23:21,040

Because it was full of swamps.

316

00:23:21,040 --> 00:23:24,590

And then I was transferred.

317

00:23:24,590 --> 00:23:27,820

I had the special letters

that my father had given me

318

00:23:27,820 --> 00:23:33,040

as the introduction

showing that my efforts was

319

00:23:33,040 --> 00:23:36,040

to want to be a doctor.

320

00:23:36,040 --> 00:23:43,690

And so before I knew it, I was

transferred from the infantry

321

00:23:43,690 --> 00:23:48,810

to go to medical school.

322

00:23:48,810 --> 00:23:51,730

Did you know what was

going on in Europe

323

00:23:51,730 --> 00:23:55,270

with the situation with the

Jews or what was happening

324

00:23:55,270 --> 00:23:56,830

at all during the war?

325

00:23:56,830 --> 00:23:58,570

Were you aware of any of that?

326

00:23:58,570 --> 00:24:02,200

Until then, little

by little, I started

327

00:24:02,200 --> 00:24:11,920  
to pick up about Germany, and  
the spies of what's going on.

328

00:24:11,920 --> 00:24:19,900  
and the frustrations  
of what was happening.

329

00:24:19,900 --> 00:24:25,450  
And yet, they kept  
us to be alert.

330

00:24:25,450 --> 00:24:29,200  
So they sent me to  
the medical school.

331

00:24:29,200 --> 00:24:35,710  
I went for 4 and 1/2 months  
and gave a study for,

332

00:24:35,710 --> 00:24:39,370  
if I recall it, almost  
for a year study.

333

00:24:39,370 --> 00:24:42,610  
And I graduated.

334

00:24:42,610 --> 00:24:44,095  
And I headed back to my outfit.

335

00:24:44,095 --> 00:24:46,810

336

00:24:46,810 --> 00:24:52,615  
And before you knew it, I  
we're all heading for Europe.

337

00:24:52,615 --> 00:24:55,560

338

00:24:55,560 --> 00:25:02,685  
That's when-- I was going to--

339  
00:25:02,685 --> 00:25:04,310  
well, I'm not going  
to go into details.

340  
00:25:04,310 --> 00:25:06,170  
Because it's just a [INAUDIBLE].

341  
00:25:06,170 --> 00:25:07,600  
But if you want me to, I--

342  
00:25:07,600 --> 00:25:09,850  
If you don't mind, whatever  
you feel comfortable with.

343  
00:25:09,850 --> 00:25:11,270  
OK.

344  
00:25:11,270 --> 00:25:19,250  
We went in the West  
Point transatlantic.

345  
00:25:19,250 --> 00:25:22,790  
And that held almost  
a complete division.

346  
00:25:22,790 --> 00:25:24,230  
What division?

347  
00:25:24,230 --> 00:25:25,550  
At West Point.

348  
00:25:25,550 --> 00:25:26,910  
What division were you in?

349  
00:25:26,910 --> 00:25:28,670  
The 70th Infantry Division.

350  
00:25:28,670 --> 00:25:29,660  
OK.

351

00:25:29,660 --> 00:25:38,390  
And I was assigned to the 275th  
medical detachment as a medic.

352  
00:25:38,390 --> 00:25:39,350  
Mm-hmm.

353  
00:25:39,350 --> 00:25:53,990  
And we headed from New Jersey,  
Camp Davis, New Jersey,

354  
00:25:53,990 --> 00:25:55,220  
to Marseilles, France.

355  
00:25:55,220 --> 00:25:58,680

356  
00:25:58,680 --> 00:26:04,320  
And I couldn't stand  
the waves at all.

357  
00:26:04,320 --> 00:26:12,610  
And I had to lie down  
for 13 days in a cot

358  
00:26:12,610 --> 00:26:16,060  
eating nothing  
but Ritz Crackers.

359  
00:26:16,060 --> 00:26:18,370  
Because I couldn't stand the--

360  
00:26:18,370 --> 00:26:21,350  
I got dizzy very easy.

361  
00:26:21,350 --> 00:26:27,700  
So then we landed in Marseilles.

362  
00:26:27,700 --> 00:26:30,700  
And we stayed there for  
about two, three days.

363

00:26:30,700 --> 00:26:37,640

And I had a friend of  
mine, he was Jewish.

364

00:26:37,640 --> 00:26:38,390

What's his name?

365

00:26:38,390 --> 00:26:42,350

His name was Murray Pruzan.

366

00:26:42,350 --> 00:26:47,020

I always kept in touch  
with his parents.

367

00:26:47,020 --> 00:26:50,260

And he was a medic, also.

368

00:26:50,260 --> 00:26:56,210

369

00:26:56,210 --> 00:27:02,060

And that night,  
we're bivouacking.

370

00:27:02,060 --> 00:27:08,140

And he says, this is Anthony.

371

00:27:08,140 --> 00:27:10,810

By that time, they  
never call me Tony.

372

00:27:10,810 --> 00:27:13,480

They call me Anthony.

373

00:27:13,480 --> 00:27:20,790

And he says, I don't think  
I'm going to make it.

374

00:27:20,790 --> 00:27:24,570

He says, I'm going to die.

375

00:27:24,570 --> 00:27:28,350



I said, Murray, don't  
speak like that.

376  
00:27:28,350 --> 00:27:30,610  
You should pray.

377  
00:27:30,610 --> 00:27:33,360  
Have faith.

378  
00:27:33,360 --> 00:27:35,690  
No, no, no, I have a  
feeling I'm going to die.

379  
00:27:35,690 --> 00:27:38,370

380  
00:27:38,370 --> 00:27:41,700  
I said Murray, don't say that.

381  
00:27:41,700 --> 00:27:44,680

382  
00:27:44,680 --> 00:27:52,530  
But anyway, I changed his  
mind by talking other things.

383  
00:27:52,530 --> 00:27:59,490  
Then two days later, we  
headed for Lyon, France.

384  
00:27:59,490 --> 00:28:02,250  
And we were divided.

385  
00:28:02,250 --> 00:28:04,320  
He was assigned to a group.

386  
00:28:04,320 --> 00:28:10,020  
And I was assigned to  
another group, and Company B,

387  
00:28:10,020 --> 00:28:16,530  
and he was assigned to

a Company A something.

388  
00:28:16,530 --> 00:28:22,160  
But anyway, we went to battle.

389  
00:28:22,160 --> 00:28:30,110  
And on my assignment,  
I headed with Company B

390  
00:28:30,110 --> 00:28:31,560  
on a special assignment.

391  
00:28:31,560 --> 00:28:33,680  
And I just followed.

392  
00:28:33,680 --> 00:28:37,550  
I carried my duffel bag and  
all my equipment with me.

393  
00:28:37,550 --> 00:28:42,860  
And everybody used to laugh at  
me, and yell at me, and say,

394  
00:28:42,860 --> 00:28:46,180  
Anthony, drop that,  
drop all that stuff.

395  
00:28:46,180 --> 00:28:49,010  
They says, they're  
going to kill you!

396  
00:28:49,010 --> 00:28:51,530  
You're a sore thumb!

397  
00:28:51,530 --> 00:28:55,650  
I said, no, that's  
going to save my life.

398  
00:28:55,650 --> 00:29:01,870  
And so we headed  
to their assignment

399

00:29:01,870 --> 00:29:02,870  
and what they had to do.

400  
00:29:02,870 --> 00:29:06,210  
And I just followed.

401  
00:29:06,210 --> 00:29:09,110  
And as we were  
heading back, they

402  
00:29:09,110 --> 00:29:12,930  
finished what they had  
to do, the battalion.

403  
00:29:12,930 --> 00:29:21,860  
And we were marching  
towards a ridge.

404  
00:29:21,860 --> 00:29:24,440  
And there was a dike down below.

405  
00:29:24,440 --> 00:29:27,710  
And I heard an  
echo, medic, medic.

406  
00:29:27,710 --> 00:29:31,740  
Because there were machine  
guns going on back and forth.

407  
00:29:31,740 --> 00:29:33,470  
And I was carrying  
my stuff with me.

408  
00:29:33,470 --> 00:29:39,470  
And then-- so finally,  
I picked up the sound.

409  
00:29:39,470 --> 00:29:43,520  
And I started to  
head down the hill.

410  
00:29:43,520 --> 00:29:45,920  
And as I was heading

down the hill,

411

00:29:45,920 --> 00:29:48,320

I tripped on some branches.

412

00:29:48,320 --> 00:29:50,870

And when I tripped  
over those branches,

413

00:29:50,870 --> 00:29:56,420

then I saw up ahead a  
cave with the Germans.

414

00:29:56,420 --> 00:29:58,280

Well, there were  
about six Germans

415

00:29:58,280 --> 00:30:00,890

in that with machine guns.

416

00:30:00,890 --> 00:30:05,900

And those machine guns  
were the umpteenth--

417

00:30:05,900 --> 00:30:08,300

just, you thought you  
were thousands of them.

418

00:30:08,300 --> 00:30:11,380

But it turned out to be  
that those machine guns

419

00:30:11,380 --> 00:30:13,820

[IMITATING MACHINE GUN FIRE].

420

00:30:13,820 --> 00:30:19,560

And at that time, when they  
started shooting at me,

421

00:30:19,560 --> 00:30:22,260

my stuff went up in the air.

422

00:30:22,260 --> 00:30:26,580  
My duffel bag and everything  
just turned open into a sieve.

423  
00:30:26,580 --> 00:30:31,260  
My other boots went ping pong  
here and then so on, so forth.

424  
00:30:31,260 --> 00:30:32,850  
I fell on the ground.

425  
00:30:32,850 --> 00:30:36,540  
And I crawled to my helmet.

426  
00:30:36,540 --> 00:30:41,651  
And before I knew it, I was with  
the fellas that were wounded.

427  
00:30:41,651 --> 00:30:47,070  
So by that time, they had  
control of the Germans.

428  
00:30:47,070 --> 00:30:55,140  
And so I was doing repair  
jobs, first aid, sutures,

429  
00:30:55,140 --> 00:31:01,320  
and sewing thumbs,  
cutting the leg off,

430  
00:31:01,320 --> 00:31:10,540  
and putting a tourniquet, and  
sewing up the leg, that stump,

431  
00:31:10,540 --> 00:31:13,840  
doing this and that,  
so forth, as a medic.

432  
00:31:13,840 --> 00:31:18,220  
So finally, we all  
started to head back.

433  
00:31:18,220 --> 00:31:21,820

And they help me  
with the wounded.

434  
00:31:21,820 --> 00:31:25,750  
And as we were heading  
back, our scout

435  
00:31:25,750 --> 00:31:32,050  
said that we couldn't  
get back to Philipsburg.

436  
00:31:32,050 --> 00:31:33,400  
And so we decided--

437  
00:31:33,400 --> 00:31:37,010  
he said, move over to that hill.

438  
00:31:37,010 --> 00:31:40,120  
And so we went up to the hill.

439  
00:31:40,120 --> 00:31:45,910  
And there, I saw  
Murray Pruzan dead.

440  
00:31:45,910 --> 00:31:46,870  
He had been killed.

441  
00:31:46,870 --> 00:31:48,820  
He tried to save--

442  
00:31:48,820 --> 00:31:55,630  
well, he did save our  
Captain Commander's life.

443  
00:31:55,630 --> 00:32:00,310  
He had severe wounds.

444  
00:32:00,310 --> 00:32:03,160  
And he was unconscious.

445  
00:32:03,160 --> 00:32:09,710  
But Murray was cut in

half by machine guns.

446  
00:32:09,710 --> 00:32:12,100  
I lost my friend.

447  
00:32:12,100 --> 00:32:16,840  
And at that time, it  
was just like saying,

448  
00:32:16,840 --> 00:32:19,720  
all hell broke loose  
there on that hill.

449  
00:32:19,720 --> 00:32:25,360  
And we were there from the--

450  
00:32:25,360 --> 00:32:35,110  
oh, fifth days before  
Christmas until the 2nd of--

451  
00:32:35,110 --> 00:32:39,520

452  
00:32:39,520 --> 00:32:42,190  
the 2nd of January.

453  
00:32:42,190 --> 00:32:46,297  
And we were selected  
to be captured.

454  
00:32:46,297 --> 00:32:48,130  
And this was during the  
Battle of the Bulge?

455  
00:32:48,130 --> 00:32:48,790  
Yeah, it was the  
Battle of the Bulge.

456  
00:32:48,790 --> 00:32:51,640  
And do you remember the name  
of the hill that you were on?

457

00:32:51,640 --> 00:32:52,750  
Falkenberg Hill.

458  
00:32:52,750 --> 00:32:54,640  
OK.

459  
00:32:54,640 --> 00:33:00,040  
And that's when the  
Germans came up the hill.

460  
00:33:00,040 --> 00:33:03,670

461  
00:33:03,670 --> 00:33:08,230  
And we had to surrender.

462  
00:33:08,230 --> 00:33:13,600  
And we tried to destroy  
everything that we could carry.

463  
00:33:13,600 --> 00:33:17,770  
I carried my first aid,  
everything, equipment with me

464  
00:33:17,770 --> 00:33:24,610  
as much as I could  
to help the sick.

465  
00:33:24,610 --> 00:33:33,960  
When the Germans took us, they  
forced us to get my shoes off,

466  
00:33:33,960 --> 00:33:41,570  
our boots off, walk down the  
slope barefooted in the snow,

467  
00:33:41,570 --> 00:33:44,465  
and march for about almost  
a mile to the trucks.

468  
00:33:44,465 --> 00:33:47,025



469

00:33:47,025 --> 00:33:50,210

Let's pause tape for a second.

470

00:33:50,210 --> 00:33:50,710

Excuse me.

471

00:33:50,710 --> 00:33:52,120

One second.

472

00:33:52,120 --> 00:33:53,282

Oh.

473

00:33:53,282 --> 00:33:55,190

Let me know when  
we're rolling please.

474

00:33:55,190 --> 00:33:57,970

Stand by to slate.

475

00:33:57,970 --> 00:33:59,320

Go ahead, Kyra.

476

00:33:59,320 --> 00:34:02,500

This is a continuation of  
a United States Holocaust

477

00:34:02,500 --> 00:34:06,580

Memorial Museum interview  
with Anthony Acevedo.

478

00:34:06,580 --> 00:34:09,050

OK, so we're going to  
go back a little bit.

479

00:34:09,050 --> 00:34:13,000

And I want you to tell  
me, you were in Lyon,

480

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:15,190

and you're 19  
years old, and it's

481

00:34:15,190 --> 00:34:17,260

your first time  
ever experiencing

482

00:34:17,260 --> 00:34:18,770

anything like this.

483

00:34:18,770 --> 00:34:24,159

So how did you get  
from Lyon to Belgium?

484

00:34:24,159 --> 00:34:25,449

And let's start there.

485

00:34:25,449 --> 00:34:28,150

486

00:34:28,150 --> 00:34:35,020

From Lyon, for  
the first time, we

487

00:34:35,020 --> 00:34:43,909

took a train to head  
for Philipsburg.

488

00:34:43,909 --> 00:34:45,110

What country was that in?

489

00:34:45,110 --> 00:34:49,639

A little town, a little  
village, of Philipsburg,

490

00:34:49,639 --> 00:34:56,120

up towards the front of the  
Maginot Line and the Sipric

491

00:34:56,120 --> 00:34:57,020

Line.

492

00:34:57,020 --> 00:34:58,190

OK.

493

00:34:58,190 --> 00:35:06,710

And at that time, when  
we took the train,

494

00:35:06,710 --> 00:35:13,805

an experience was  
that all the fellows

495

00:35:13,805 --> 00:35:20,900

say, oh, you know what, is  
that, we need some wine,

496

00:35:20,900 --> 00:35:25,810

I said, oh, no, the expression  
that you get sometimes

497

00:35:25,810 --> 00:35:31,480

that now they want to drink,  
they said, to lose their fears.

498

00:35:31,480 --> 00:35:32,260

No, thank you.

499

00:35:32,260 --> 00:35:38,250

500

00:35:38,250 --> 00:35:42,950

But smell this.

501

00:35:42,950 --> 00:35:46,325

And they call it schnapps.

502

00:35:46,325 --> 00:35:49,850

503

00:35:49,850 --> 00:35:55,720

And I said, well, it  
smells like turpentine

504

00:35:55,720 --> 00:36:02,050

that you wash your hands from  
after you finish painting, ooh.

505  
00:36:02,050 --> 00:36:05,710

506  
00:36:05,710 --> 00:36:09,490  
That's better than what vodka.

507  
00:36:09,490 --> 00:36:10,900  
I says, I don't drink that.

508  
00:36:10,900 --> 00:36:14,630

509  
00:36:14,630 --> 00:36:16,190  
I didn't get  
[? the importance ?]..

510  
00:36:16,190 --> 00:36:19,520  
But that the fellows starting  
to feel that they wanted

511  
00:36:19,520 --> 00:36:21,650  
to feel a little  
numbness from the fear.

512  
00:36:21,650 --> 00:36:24,340

513  
00:36:24,340 --> 00:36:31,728  
And we got to Philipsburg.

514  
00:36:31,728 --> 00:36:35,480  
And it turned out to  
be a wire factory.

515  
00:36:35,480 --> 00:36:37,470  
I'm sorry, what country  
was Philipsburg in?

516  
00:36:37,470 --> 00:36:45,700  
It's a little town of  
France and Germany that--

517  
00:36:45,700 --> 00:36:49,630

518  
00:36:49,630 --> 00:36:50,575  
it has a highway.

519  
00:36:50,575 --> 00:36:53,600

520  
00:36:53,600 --> 00:37:00,480  
And they used to call  
it the corner 80.

521  
00:37:00,480 --> 00:37:02,580  
I don't know why  
they used that term.

522  
00:37:02,580 --> 00:37:05,100  
But anyway, that  
was Philipsburg.

523  
00:37:05,100 --> 00:37:09,720  
And from Philipsburg  
to Falkenberg

524  
00:37:09,720 --> 00:37:15,820  
was just a few kilometers  
to where that hill was?

525  
00:37:15,820 --> 00:37:18,070  
And that was in Belgium?

526  
00:37:18,070 --> 00:37:18,970  
No, France.

527  
00:37:18,970 --> 00:37:19,590  
In France.

528  
00:37:19,590 --> 00:37:20,448  
France.

529

00:37:20,448 --> 00:37:22,240

OK.

530

00:37:22,240 --> 00:37:30,120

At the time that we were  
going to do our up front,

531

00:37:30,120 --> 00:37:36,556

I hear somebody call  
me, medic, medic.

532

00:37:36,556 --> 00:37:39,450

And I turned around and  
headed to the fellow.

533

00:37:39,450 --> 00:37:42,780

And they says, what do you want?

534

00:37:42,780 --> 00:37:45,670

I says, I'm afraid.

535

00:37:45,670 --> 00:37:47,720

I don't want to go.

536

00:37:47,720 --> 00:37:49,470

Was this during the battle?

537

00:37:49,470 --> 00:37:50,420

The battle.

538

00:37:50,420 --> 00:37:53,030

What was going on around you?

539

00:37:53,030 --> 00:37:55,220

We were going to head back to--

540

00:37:55,220 --> 00:37:59,810

I mean, we were going to head  
up the front towards the battle.

541

00:37:59,810 --> 00:38:04,650

And he wanted-- he was  
afraid to face the battle.

542  
00:38:04,650 --> 00:38:11,950  
And so I had to tag him  
and call him as a casualty.

543  
00:38:11,950 --> 00:38:13,966  
Do you remember his name?

544  
00:38:13,966 --> 00:38:17,740  
No, I don't remember his name.

545  
00:38:17,740 --> 00:38:24,040  
At that time, there were  
fellows where you to--

546  
00:38:24,040 --> 00:38:26,650  
or they commit suicide.

547  
00:38:26,650 --> 00:38:33,100  
And had to sign a card where he  
heads back to the medical corps

548  
00:38:33,100 --> 00:38:37,410  
and called the casualty.

549  
00:38:37,410 --> 00:38:41,220  
Or he would commit suicide  
or shoot at everybody.

550  
00:38:41,220 --> 00:38:43,215  
At the Americans,  
or his colleagues?

551  
00:38:43,215 --> 00:38:45,700  
American American.

552  
00:38:45,700 --> 00:38:51,385  
Or they would be follows  
that they were afraid.

553

00:38:51,385 --> 00:38:54,400

554

00:38:54,400 --> 00:39:03,310

And they started to lose  
that feeling of want

555

00:39:03,310 --> 00:39:04,120

to do something.

556

00:39:04,120 --> 00:39:06,220

And yet, they cannot  
do anything at all.

557

00:39:06,220 --> 00:39:08,230

Because they couldn't  
think anymore.

558

00:39:08,230 --> 00:39:11,890

And they said, could  
you baptize me?

559

00:39:11,890 --> 00:39:15,130

I says, don't know how to pray.

560

00:39:15,130 --> 00:39:17,170

I'm afraid.

561

00:39:17,170 --> 00:39:20,650

And so I would  
more or less remind

562

00:39:20,650 --> 00:39:24,550

them a prayer or whatever.

563

00:39:24,550 --> 00:39:28,820

I says-- I'd ask  
them what religion.

564

00:39:28,820 --> 00:39:30,580

No religion.

565



00:39:30,580 --> 00:39:31,720

They had no faith.

566

00:39:31,720 --> 00:39:35,380

And they weren't  
taught to have faith.

567

00:39:35,380 --> 00:39:43,000

And so these were fellows  
that you'd come across.

568

00:39:43,000 --> 00:39:44,823

What faith where you?

569

00:39:44,823 --> 00:39:45,490

Beg your pardon?

570

00:39:45,490 --> 00:39:46,685

What religion were you?

571

00:39:46,685 --> 00:39:47,185

Catholic.

572

00:39:47,185 --> 00:39:47,920

Catholic.

573

00:39:47,920 --> 00:39:49,510

Did you have a  
prayer book with you?

574

00:39:49,510 --> 00:39:51,310

Or how did you help them pray?

575

00:39:51,310 --> 00:39:54,460

I had my prayer book with me.

576

00:39:54,460 --> 00:40:01,000

And I would use  
some phrases that

577

00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:06,940

wouldn't be too long but enough

for that person, that soldier,

578

00:40:06,940 --> 00:40:12,910

to motivate him, make  
him feel motivated,

579

00:40:12,910 --> 00:40:15,990

and feel free of fear.

580

00:40:15,990 --> 00:40:17,730

And that's what he was.

581

00:40:17,730 --> 00:40:19,263

He was afraid.

582

00:40:19,263 --> 00:40:20,430

So you weren't just a medic.

583

00:40:20,430 --> 00:40:22,470

You were their chaplain.

584

00:40:22,470 --> 00:40:26,020

I had to use that template.

585

00:40:26,020 --> 00:40:32,700

We have the rights to  
do that for the purpose

586

00:40:32,700 --> 00:40:34,950

of trying to save lives.

587

00:40:34,950 --> 00:40:38,060

How did that make you feel?

588

00:40:38,060 --> 00:40:49,440

It made me feel more open, more  
relaxed, a faith more strong.

589

00:40:49,440 --> 00:40:53,580

And that's what gave  
me-- invigorated me not

590

00:40:53,580 --> 00:40:54,940  
to be afraid.

591

00:40:54,940 --> 00:40:57,030  
So how did you feel  
going into battle?

592

00:40:57,030 --> 00:41:01,330  
And what did you see around you?

593

00:41:01,330 --> 00:41:04,960  
We had had question  
marks in up here.

594

00:41:04,960 --> 00:41:07,580  
And I said, God, help me.

595

00:41:07,580 --> 00:41:12,410  
And there I go with  
the rest of them.

596

00:41:12,410 --> 00:41:16,462  
And I'm in your hands.

597

00:41:16,462 --> 00:41:17,350  
Mm-hmm.

598

00:41:17,350 --> 00:41:21,292  
And what was it like the first  
few days going into battle?

599

00:41:21,292 --> 00:41:22,000  
What did you see?

600

00:41:22,000 --> 00:41:26,160

601

00:41:26,160 --> 00:41:32,250  
Afraid that at any moment a  
German was going to shoot in

602

00:41:32,250 --> 00:41:35,170  
where or what direction.

603  
00:41:35,170 --> 00:41:41,140  
Because when I--  
at that time, when

604  
00:41:41,140 --> 00:41:56,170  
I had turn over that fellow,  
a sergeant asked the captain,

605  
00:41:56,170 --> 00:42:00,340  
what are we going to  
do with these Germans?

606  
00:42:00,340 --> 00:42:05,060  
They had captured  
about 30, 40 of them.

607  
00:42:05,060 --> 00:42:13,010  
And they had them out  
by that wire factory,

608  
00:42:13,010 --> 00:42:16,580  
to the side of the wire factory.

609  
00:42:16,580 --> 00:42:23,930  
And so the sergeant  
went over and said,

610  
00:42:23,930 --> 00:42:26,120  
Captain, what do we do them?

611  
00:42:26,120 --> 00:42:27,470  
Take care of them.

612  
00:42:27,470 --> 00:42:29,150  
This was taking  
care of the Germans.

613  
00:42:29,150 --> 00:42:31,370  
Take care of the Germans.

614

00:42:31,370 --> 00:42:35,075

Well, you can use the terminology in two ways.

615

00:42:35,075 --> 00:42:38,260

616

00:42:38,260 --> 00:42:45,530

Take care of them by guard them, don't do anything

617

00:42:45,530 --> 00:42:51,780

to them because they're prisoners, or shoot them.

618

00:42:51,780 --> 00:42:56,720

Well that was incorrect.

619

00:42:56,720 --> 00:42:58,810

He shot them, all of them.

620

00:42:58,810 --> 00:43:01,310

The American?

621

00:43:01,310 --> 00:43:07,800

And that gave me a feeling of, why

622

00:43:07,800 --> 00:43:10,140

did they have to shoot them since they were already

623

00:43:10,140 --> 00:43:15,100

in our hands with no equipment?

624

00:43:15,100 --> 00:43:18,850

And they were not endangering our lives.

625

00:43:18,850 --> 00:43:22,560

A prisoner of war is a prisoner of war.

626  
00:43:22,560 --> 00:43:24,180  
Did you see the  
shooting take place?

627  
00:43:24,180 --> 00:43:26,250  
I submitted that report.

628  
00:43:26,250 --> 00:43:27,700  
Mm-hmm.

629  
00:43:27,700 --> 00:43:28,430  
That was wrong.

630  
00:43:28,430 --> 00:43:30,910  
But they did that.

631  
00:43:30,910 --> 00:43:33,400  
Were there any repercussions  
for that American.

632  
00:43:33,400 --> 00:43:34,240  
I never knew.

633  
00:43:34,240 --> 00:43:35,410  
I never knew.

634  
00:43:35,410 --> 00:43:39,790  
But that was one of the cases  
where it kept me in my mind.

635  
00:43:39,790 --> 00:43:44,210

636  
00:43:44,210 --> 00:43:49,460  
And so that was, at the  
time, before heading out

637  
00:43:49,460 --> 00:43:53,490  
with my duffel bag  
and everything.

638

00:43:53,490 --> 00:44:02,030

And so when I was  
up in that hill

639

00:44:02,030 --> 00:44:07,095

and took care of the  
fellas, first aid.

640

00:44:07,095 --> 00:44:09,470

I was going to say, how did  
you take care of the fellows?

641

00:44:09,470 --> 00:44:11,540

Because you were now  
up on Falkenberg Hill.

642

00:44:11,540 --> 00:44:13,640

I'm now back on Falkenberg Hill.

643

00:44:13,640 --> 00:44:15,680

And you were ordered--

644

00:44:15,680 --> 00:44:18,860

your whole unit was  
ordered to go up there.

645

00:44:18,860 --> 00:44:20,298

The whole--

646

00:44:20,298 --> 00:44:21,590

How did you end up on the hill?

647

00:44:21,590 --> 00:44:23,720

When the machine gunning--

648

00:44:23,720 --> 00:44:28,880

when we finished our assignment,  
when my duffel bag bursted up

649

00:44:28,880 --> 00:44:32,330

into flames, and then--

650

00:44:32,330 --> 00:44:33,630

Where was that?

651

00:44:33,630 --> 00:44:37,070

That was before

getting to Falkenberg.

652

00:44:37,070 --> 00:44:38,660

We were heading back.

653

00:44:38,660 --> 00:44:41,000

And the assignment

that the group

654

00:44:41,000 --> 00:44:45,620

had been assigned to do

away with, annihilate,

655

00:44:45,620 --> 00:44:49,070

certain pillboxes that

there were Germans.

656

00:44:49,070 --> 00:44:50,690

What are pillboxes?

657

00:44:50,690 --> 00:44:52,940

That's where Germans

had equipment,

658

00:44:52,940 --> 00:44:58,280

the secret equipment,

missiles, or buzz bombs,

659

00:44:58,280 --> 00:45:00,260

that they were shooting.

660

00:45:00,260 --> 00:45:06,560

And so us medics

didn't know what

661

00:45:06,560 --> 00:45:10,790

was then, what they were doing,



what were the assignments.

662

00:45:10,790 --> 00:45:12,080

It was secret.

663

00:45:12,080 --> 00:45:13,640

And us medics would

just take care

664

00:45:13,640 --> 00:45:15,140

of the sick and the wounded.

665

00:45:15,140 --> 00:45:17,780

666

00:45:17,780 --> 00:45:21,620

So that was when,

upon heading back,

667

00:45:21,620 --> 00:45:23,810

they had finished

the assignment.

668

00:45:23,810 --> 00:45:26,660

And that was heading back.

669

00:45:26,660 --> 00:45:36,110

And when I heard the sound

effects of, medic, medic,

670

00:45:36,110 --> 00:45:40,460

and you find the echo from

all sides in the dikes.

671

00:45:40,460 --> 00:45:45,470

And the echoes just

travel in the forests.

672

00:45:45,470 --> 00:45:48,560

And there was snow

up to your waist.

673

00:45:48,560 --> 00:45:54,770

So your voice gets to  
hear you say a word here.

674

00:45:54,770 --> 00:45:56,120

And it echos over there.

675

00:45:56,120 --> 00:45:58,590

And where were you during this?

676

00:45:58,590 --> 00:46:00,980

I was on top of the ridge.

677

00:46:00,980 --> 00:46:09,215

We're marching to head  
back to the wire factory.

678

00:46:09,215 --> 00:46:11,310

And what town was  
the wire factory?

679

00:46:11,310 --> 00:46:11,810

Philipsburg.

680

00:46:11,810 --> 00:46:12,890

OK.

681

00:46:12,890 --> 00:46:17,810

And so that's when my--

682

00:46:17,810 --> 00:46:27,220

when I headed down the slope,  
I tripped on the branches.

683

00:46:27,220 --> 00:46:31,090

And I tripped, my duffel  
bag went up in the air.

684

00:46:31,090 --> 00:46:35,110

And as it went up in the air,  
the machine guns started.

685

00:46:35,110 --> 00:46:37,690  
And they were firing at me.

686  
00:46:37,690 --> 00:46:41,410  
And so I fell on the ground.

687  
00:46:41,410 --> 00:46:47,740  
And I crawled into my helmet.

688  
00:46:47,740 --> 00:46:51,220  
And then I crawled to  
where my fellows were.

689  
00:46:51,220 --> 00:46:56,080  
And so I started to give  
them first aid and fix--

690  
00:46:56,080 --> 00:46:59,110  
and there were fellows  
that had a leg blown up.

691  
00:46:59,110 --> 00:47:03,250  
And so I to do my  
first-aid tourniquets,

692  
00:47:03,250 --> 00:47:05,620  
sew it up, and cut it off.

693  
00:47:05,620 --> 00:47:07,210  
How did that make you feel?

694  
00:47:07,210 --> 00:47:09,910  
Was that the first time you  
had to do something like that?

695  
00:47:09,910 --> 00:47:15,170  
I had experience learning is,  
if you want to be a doctor,

696  
00:47:15,170 --> 00:47:19,190  
you have to do what  
you have to do.

697

00:47:19,190 --> 00:47:19,690

Mm-hmm.

698

00:47:19,690 --> 00:47:25,530

And I did it with all  
my heart and feeling

699

00:47:25,530 --> 00:47:35,420

that young fellows, the  
same, my age, do die.

700

00:47:35,420 --> 00:47:44,770

But fear nothing, and  
injected him with morphine

701

00:47:44,770 --> 00:47:48,000

to prevent the pain.

702

00:47:48,000 --> 00:47:54,500

And repair that wound.

703

00:47:54,500 --> 00:48:02,070

But a thumb blown off, fix  
it up, whatever you can,

704

00:48:02,070 --> 00:48:05,720

do it to stop the bleeding.

705

00:48:05,720 --> 00:48:08,470

Wounds, everything, and  
fears of everything,

706

00:48:08,470 --> 00:48:12,420

you have to keep  
the morale going.

707

00:48:12,420 --> 00:48:12,920

Mm-hmm.

708

00:48:12,920 --> 00:48:14,930

And how was it for you?

709

00:48:14,930 --> 00:48:17,060

You know, you've  
grown up in Mexico.

710

00:48:17,060 --> 00:48:19,820

And now you're in  
this foreign country.

711

00:48:19,820 --> 00:48:22,010

And what was that like for you?

712

00:48:22,010 --> 00:48:23,385

Was this totally  
different from--

713

00:48:23,385 --> 00:48:25,510

I mean, you'd never  
experienced anything like this.

714

00:48:25,510 --> 00:48:27,080

How were you feeling  
at that time?

715

00:48:27,080 --> 00:48:34,100

To me, when I left  
Mexico, I wasn't

716

00:48:34,100 --> 00:48:36,680

too happy living in Mexico.

717

00:48:36,680 --> 00:48:44,200

Because I was used to my  
being in good-old Pasadena.

718

00:48:44,200 --> 00:48:47,660

That's where I wanted  
to be all the time.

719

00:48:47,660 --> 00:48:55,040

Because if I turn  
back a little bit

720

00:48:55,040 --> 00:49:00,040  
over there living in  
Pasadena, my cousin and I

721  
00:49:00,040 --> 00:49:09,840  
would have a little scraper.

722  
00:49:09,840 --> 00:49:17,040  
We'd buy ice, big cubes of  
ice, and scrape it, and then

723  
00:49:17,040 --> 00:49:24,120  
fill it up in a cup, and soak  
it with the Kool-Aid flavors,

724  
00:49:24,120 --> 00:49:27,660  
and sell it for \$0.03  
a cup going down

725  
00:49:27,660 --> 00:49:31,200  
the road, house by house.

726  
00:49:31,200 --> 00:49:33,650  
And that's how we--

727  
00:49:33,650 --> 00:49:37,190  
and every penny,  
whatever penny we made,

728  
00:49:37,190 --> 00:49:39,650  
we'd give it to my mother.

729  
00:49:39,650 --> 00:49:41,710  
And it's part of our lives.

730  
00:49:41,710 --> 00:49:45,120

731  
00:49:45,120 --> 00:49:53,750  
So things like that  
motivated you, doing things

732

00:49:53,750 --> 00:49:56,380  
that you're not supposed to do.

733  
00:49:56,380 --> 00:50:00,120  
So thinking about your  
family, remembering home,

734  
00:50:00,120 --> 00:50:00,890  
helped you a lot?

735  
00:50:00,890 --> 00:50:01,460  
Yeah.

736  
00:50:01,460 --> 00:50:02,460  
Yeah.

737  
00:50:02,460 --> 00:50:05,610  
So what happened  
after this incident?

738  
00:50:05,610 --> 00:50:08,430  
You were now-- your unit  
was heading towards--

739  
00:50:08,430 --> 00:50:11,430  
was charged to head  
towards Falkenberg?

740  
00:50:11,430 --> 00:50:15,690  
We heard-- well, we were  
up there in Falkenberg.

741  
00:50:15,690 --> 00:50:21,810  
Then I saw I saw Murray Pruzan.

742  
00:50:21,810 --> 00:50:24,030  
And I had lost my buddy.

743  
00:50:24,030 --> 00:50:28,430

744  
00:50:28,430 --> 00:50:33,290

And Captain Schmitt was  
very seriously wounded.

745  
00:50:33,290 --> 00:50:35,630  
He was unconscious.

746  
00:50:35,630 --> 00:50:44,130  
And so I did what I can to  
continue on part of what Murray

747  
00:50:44,130 --> 00:50:47,360  
had left, he wasn't  
able to complete

748  
00:50:47,360 --> 00:50:50,990  
when he was wounded or killed.

749  
00:50:50,990 --> 00:50:54,470  
And the same thing I did  
with the other fellows that

750  
00:50:54,470 --> 00:50:59,730  
needed wounds that were the  
conditions that us medics

751  
00:50:59,730 --> 00:51:00,770  
had to do.

752  
00:51:00,770 --> 00:51:03,440  
How did it make you feel when  
you came across Murray, when

753  
00:51:03,440 --> 00:51:04,120  
you found him?

754  
00:51:04,120 --> 00:51:08,296

755  
00:51:08,296 --> 00:51:10,910  
Well, it's funny.

756  
00:51:10,910 --> 00:51:13,920



757

00:51:13,920 --> 00:51:21,740

I prayed for him, that  
God had taken him.

758

00:51:21,740 --> 00:51:28,968

And I said, I told you,  
Murray, I told you not to fear,

759

00:51:28,968 --> 00:51:30,260

that you were going to survive.

760

00:51:30,260 --> 00:51:33,720

761

00:51:33,720 --> 00:51:35,040

That's all I had to--

762

00:51:35,040 --> 00:51:39,140

I couldn't do anything  
else but to pray for him

763

00:51:39,140 --> 00:51:42,470

because his soul had been taken.

764

00:51:42,470 --> 00:51:45,830

765

00:51:45,830 --> 00:51:51,560

And he was a very kind  
person, very docile type.

766

00:51:51,560 --> 00:51:56,670

767

00:51:56,670 --> 00:51:58,800

So we headed back down the hill.

768

00:51:58,800 --> 00:52:01,140

They forced us to  
take your shoes off.

769  
00:52:01,140 --> 00:52:02,550  
Wait, I want to go back.

770  
00:52:02,550 --> 00:52:03,220  
I'm sorry.

771  
00:52:03,220 --> 00:52:03,720  
OK.

772  
00:52:03,720 --> 00:52:06,900  
So you were-- how long  
were you on the hill

773  
00:52:06,900 --> 00:52:10,320  
before the Germans came?

774  
00:52:10,320 --> 00:52:17,010  
It was until January the 6th,  
when the Germans took us,

775  
00:52:17,010 --> 00:52:18,540  
captured us.

776  
00:52:18,540 --> 00:52:20,910  
Were you fighting  
during that time?

777  
00:52:20,910 --> 00:52:23,610  
Were you holding them off?

778  
00:52:23,610 --> 00:52:25,380  
What were you and  
the guys doing?

779  
00:52:25,380 --> 00:52:27,840  
I wasn't in the hill very long.

780  
00:52:27,840 --> 00:52:31,230  
Because the hill  
had been occupied

781

00:52:31,230 --> 00:52:40,770

by our company, Company B. And  
we hadn't had any information

782

00:52:40,770 --> 00:52:44,070

about it until when  
we were heading back

783

00:52:44,070 --> 00:52:47,220

towards Philipsburg, when  
the scout informed us

784

00:52:47,220 --> 00:52:51,900

that we couldn't go because the  
Germans had taken Falkenberg--

785

00:52:51,900 --> 00:52:58,740

I mean had taken Philipsburg,  
the wire factory, and that

786

00:52:58,740 --> 00:53:00,510

to head for Falkenberg.

787

00:53:00,510 --> 00:53:02,220

And so, when we were  
headed up there,

788

00:53:02,220 --> 00:53:07,230

that we had to entrench  
ourselves, and dig in, and make

789

00:53:07,230 --> 00:53:11,790

our own foxholes until  
whatever happened.

790

00:53:11,790 --> 00:53:19,290

Because our planes were  
protecting the area,

791

00:53:19,290 --> 00:53:23,625

preventing the Germans  
to go up the hill.

792

00:53:23,625 --> 00:53:24,750

But it turned out too late.

793

00:53:24,750 --> 00:53:28,280

Because we ran  
out of ammunition.

794

00:53:28,280 --> 00:53:34,440

And then the Germans had  
more control of the area.

795

00:53:34,440 --> 00:53:36,240

And we couldn't do it anymore.

796

00:53:36,240 --> 00:53:37,770

Our buddies couldn't  
do it anymore.

797

00:53:37,770 --> 00:53:40,890

Because they ran  
out of ammunition.

798

00:53:40,890 --> 00:53:44,130

I'm sorry, did you know what  
the other units in the area

799

00:53:44,130 --> 00:53:44,640

were doing?

800

00:53:44,640 --> 00:53:46,650

Or you guys were  
completely on your own?

801

00:53:46,650 --> 00:53:49,710

We were on our own,  
like Company C,

802

00:53:49,710 --> 00:53:55,450

Company K. They were all  
farther away from the areas.

803

00:53:55,450 --> 00:53:59,950

So what did your guys do when  
they ran out of ammunition?

804  
00:53:59,950 --> 00:54:02,560  
That's when we gave up.

805  
00:54:02,560 --> 00:54:05,140  
We started destroying  
our equipment.

806  
00:54:05,140 --> 00:54:07,510  
Well, they started to  
destroy their equipment.

807  
00:54:07,510 --> 00:54:09,520  
Because we-- us medics--

808  
00:54:09,520 --> 00:54:11,500  
The Americans did, the infantry.

809  
00:54:11,500 --> 00:54:14,590  
Medics couldn't use firearms.

810  
00:54:14,590 --> 00:54:22,060  
And all our infantry  
destroyed the machine guns

811  
00:54:22,060 --> 00:54:27,760  
and dug all the ammunition,  
destroy it, dug it, and then

812  
00:54:27,760 --> 00:54:28,600  
buried it.

813  
00:54:28,600 --> 00:54:29,950  
Why did they do that?

814  
00:54:29,950 --> 00:54:32,280  
To prevent the Germans  
from getting control of it.

815  
00:54:32,280 --> 00:54:33,070

OK.

816

00:54:33,070 --> 00:54:37,190

And after they did all of  
that, did you have food?

817

00:54:37,190 --> 00:54:39,570

How did take care of yourself?

818

00:54:39,570 --> 00:54:40,930

We ran out of food.

819

00:54:40,930 --> 00:54:41,920

We had no food.

820

00:54:41,920 --> 00:54:44,320

As a a matter of  
fact, I remember

821

00:54:44,320 --> 00:54:45,760

that I was in a foxhole.

822

00:54:45,760 --> 00:54:48,760

And that was the last moment.

823

00:54:48,760 --> 00:55:00,900

And I had my last little  
K-ration was a chocolate bar.

824

00:55:00,900 --> 00:55:05,100

And I fell asleep.

825

00:55:05,100 --> 00:55:07,860

And the Russian [INAUDIBLE]  
was still hungry.

826

00:55:07,860 --> 00:55:10,020

So he stoled it from me.

827

00:55:10,020 --> 00:55:12,540

There were Russians with you?

828

00:55:12,540 --> 00:55:17,640

They were a white Russian  
that our outfit had captured.

829

00:55:17,640 --> 00:55:18,540

OK.

830

00:55:18,540 --> 00:55:19,560

And--

831

00:55:19,560 --> 00:55:24,060

But we didn't punish him.

832

00:55:24,060 --> 00:55:25,373

So you were all in foxholes?

833

00:55:25,373 --> 00:55:26,040

Or how did you--

834

00:55:26,040 --> 00:55:26,640

In foxholes.

835

00:55:26,640 --> 00:55:27,150

OK.

836

00:55:27,150 --> 00:55:28,140

We were in foxholes.

837

00:55:28,140 --> 00:55:31,260

And how long were you there?

838

00:55:31,260 --> 00:55:39,060

From that foxhole, from the  
1st of January to the 6th.

839

00:55:39,060 --> 00:55:43,920

That was when we were  
told to head for--

840

00:55:43,920 --> 00:55:46,380

So who told you to surrender?

841  
00:55:46,380 --> 00:55:47,485  
The scout.

842  
00:55:47,485 --> 00:55:48,360  
The American-- your--

843  
00:55:48,360 --> 00:55:49,260  
The American scout.

844  
00:55:49,260 --> 00:55:50,940  
When the Americans scout--

845  
00:55:50,940 --> 00:55:53,430  
we were heading back  
after the battle,

846  
00:55:53,430 --> 00:55:57,450  
that we did away with the  
Germans down the hill,

847  
00:55:57,450 --> 00:55:58,450  
when I fell down?

848  
00:55:58,450 --> 00:55:58,950  
Right.

849  
00:55:58,950 --> 00:55:59,460  
OK.

850  
00:55:59,460 --> 00:56:01,050  
We headed back.

851  
00:56:01,050 --> 00:56:04,080  
And as we heading  
back to Falkenberg--

852  
00:56:04,080 --> 00:56:08,370  
I mean, to the Philipsburg,  
the scout said--

853



00:56:08,370 --> 00:56:09,390  
we bumped into him.

854  
00:56:09,390 --> 00:56:12,870  
And he told us to  
head to Falkenberg.

855  
00:56:12,870 --> 00:56:15,030  
But you are bunkered  
down on the hill?

856  
00:56:15,030 --> 00:56:18,480  
You were stuck there  
for a week, you said?

857  
00:56:18,480 --> 00:56:19,470  
Or--

858  
00:56:19,470 --> 00:56:23,640  
From the 2nd of  
January until the 6th.

859  
00:56:23,640 --> 00:56:26,280  
And it was the American.

860  
00:56:26,280 --> 00:56:28,560  
One of your guys  
in charge gave you

861  
00:56:28,560 --> 00:56:30,030  
the order to finally surrender.

862  
00:56:30,030 --> 00:56:30,990  
Yeah, yes.

863  
00:56:30,990 --> 00:56:32,130  
So what happened?

864  
00:56:32,130 --> 00:56:36,120  
The Germans-- what happened  
after you surrendered?

865

00:56:36,120 --> 00:56:42,150

Well, one of our lieutenants,  
acting as a commander,

866

00:56:42,150 --> 00:56:42,990

took over.

867

00:56:42,990 --> 00:56:44,350

Do you remember his name?

868

00:56:44,350 --> 00:56:44,850

No.

869

00:56:44,850 --> 00:56:47,660

OK.

870

00:56:47,660 --> 00:56:49,040

I had him, the name.

871

00:56:49,040 --> 00:56:50,060

But it's been so long.

872

00:56:50,060 --> 00:56:52,950

873

00:56:52,950 --> 00:56:54,180

That's OK.

874

00:56:54,180 --> 00:56:56,480

OK.

875

00:56:56,480 --> 00:56:57,890

It's hard to remember the names.

876

00:56:57,890 --> 00:57:06,230

877

00:57:06,230 --> 00:57:09,720

As a matter of fact, later,  
I'll tell you about him.

878

00:57:09,720 --> 00:57:11,880  
Which one?

879  
00:57:11,880 --> 00:57:12,930  
The one in charge?

880  
00:57:12,930 --> 00:57:13,530  
Yeah.

881  
00:57:13,530 --> 00:57:14,380  
OK.

882  
00:57:14,380 --> 00:57:19,350  
And he decided to--

883  
00:57:19,350 --> 00:57:21,065  
we'll have to surrender.

884  
00:57:21,065 --> 00:57:22,440  
We'll have to give  
up everything.

885  
00:57:22,440 --> 00:57:28,620  
He says, destroys everything  
you have as equipment, firearms

886  
00:57:28,620 --> 00:57:29,560  
and everything.

887  
00:57:29,560 --> 00:57:35,750  
And so dig holes and  
bury the ammunition.

888  
00:57:35,750 --> 00:57:41,250  
And so I'll come out  
with a flag, white flag.

889  
00:57:41,250 --> 00:57:43,950  
The Germans start  
coming up the hill.

890  
00:57:43,950 --> 00:57:45,930

And that's when we surrender.

891

00:57:45,930 --> 00:57:47,480

How did you feel at that moment?

892

00:57:47,480 --> 00:57:52,810

893

00:57:52,810 --> 00:57:55,450

Bad, it felt bad.

894

00:57:55,450 --> 00:58:04,630

Yet there was no other thing  
to do but save our lives

895

00:58:04,630 --> 00:58:08,450

and save the wounded.

896

00:58:08,450 --> 00:58:12,980

And so the Germans took us.

897

00:58:12,980 --> 00:58:14,330

We had to take our shoes off.

898

00:58:14,330 --> 00:58:19,280

And the snow was up to  
our waist, the coldest

899

00:58:19,280 --> 00:58:26,890

winter in 100 years, pretty  
close to 50 degrees below 0.

900

00:58:26,890 --> 00:58:29,560

901

00:58:29,560 --> 00:58:33,070

And headed back.

902

00:58:33,070 --> 00:58:35,080

We headed towards the trucks.

903

00:58:35,080 --> 00:58:37,593

Why did they make you  
take your shoes off?

904

00:58:37,593 --> 00:58:38,635

Prevent us from escaping.

905

00:58:38,635 --> 00:58:44,290

906

00:58:44,290 --> 00:58:45,400

We headed for the trucks.

907

00:58:45,400 --> 00:58:53,870

And then took us to  
Bad Orb, Stalag IX-B.

908

00:58:53,870 --> 00:58:55,652

Where is that?

909

00:58:55,652 --> 00:58:56,440

[INAUDIBLE]

910

00:58:56,440 --> 00:58:57,770

It's near Frankfurt.

911

00:58:57,770 --> 00:58:58,842

OK, hold on.

912

00:58:58,842 --> 00:59:00,490

Let's pause tape please.

913

00:59:00,490 --> 00:59:03,030

We're almost to the  
end of this one.