

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,940
[TONE]

2
00:00:04,940 --> 00:00:29,200

3
00:00:29,200 --> 00:00:32,409
This is a continuation of
a United States Holocaust

4
00:00:32,409 --> 00:00:36,190
Memorial Museum interview
with Anthony Acevedo.

5
00:00:36,190 --> 00:00:38,275
OK, we left off with the--

6
00:00:38,275 --> 00:00:40,646
One suggestion that
we fix his jacket.

7
00:00:40,646 --> 00:00:41,188
OK, stand by.

8
00:00:41,188 --> 00:00:42,450
Oh OK, stand by.

9
00:00:42,450 --> 00:00:45,908

10
00:00:45,908 --> 00:00:48,040
OK, do over.

11
00:00:48,040 --> 00:00:51,040
This is a continuation of
a United States Holocaust

12
00:00:51,040 --> 00:00:54,910
Memorial Museum interview
with Anthony Acevedo.

13

00:00:54,910 --> 00:00:56,120

So we left off.

14

00:00:56,120 --> 00:00:58,330

You were talking
about your diary.

15

00:00:58,330 --> 00:01:01,090

And I was asking you
what information did you

16

00:01:01,090 --> 00:01:05,780

record in your diary in Berga.

17

00:01:05,780 --> 00:01:08,290

18

00:01:08,290 --> 00:01:11,200

I tried to keep my--

19

00:01:11,200 --> 00:01:18,610

as close as possible as
the information related

20

00:01:18,610 --> 00:01:23,170

to the condition of my fellow
men because of the fact

21

00:01:23,170 --> 00:01:27,980

that, more or less,
I knew that maybe,

22

00:01:27,980 --> 00:01:33,840

someday, it would be a
valuable thing for us

23

00:01:33,840 --> 00:01:38,840

to know that it was important.

24

00:01:38,840 --> 00:01:41,480

25

00:01:41,480 --> 00:01:44,630

I was concerned
of the condition,

26

00:01:44,630 --> 00:01:50,090

knowing that maybe I was at risk
carrying that diary because,

27

00:01:50,090 --> 00:01:53,390

a couple of times, it
dropped out of my pants.

28

00:01:53,390 --> 00:01:59,450

I carried it right
inside of my belt.

29

00:01:59,450 --> 00:02:04,640

And, on one occasion, one
of the guards picked it up,

30

00:02:04,640 --> 00:02:06,860

and it happened to be
one of the good guards.

31

00:02:06,860 --> 00:02:14,810

It was the Austrian fellow that
he said, what are you writing?

32

00:02:14,810 --> 00:02:22,690

I said just my memoirs
of the beautiful country,

33

00:02:22,690 --> 00:02:26,050

just faked it to
let him know that I

34

00:02:26,050 --> 00:02:29,730

wasn't writing anything wrong.

35

00:02:29,730 --> 00:02:32,730

And so he believed me.

36

00:02:32,730 --> 00:02:36,600

But I tried to keep it
as much as secured as

37

00:02:36,600 --> 00:02:39,900

possible as I went
along, especially,

38

00:02:39,900 --> 00:02:44,070

when you would be on the march.

39

00:02:44,070 --> 00:02:50,160

And it would drop on you,
and then you would lose it.

40

00:02:50,160 --> 00:02:52,680

Did the other--
your fellow American

41

00:02:52,680 --> 00:02:54,450

soldiers that you were
with, did they know

42

00:02:54,450 --> 00:02:56,180

you were keeping the diary?

43

00:02:56,180 --> 00:03:02,560

No, only a couple of
them, but no one knew.

44

00:03:02,560 --> 00:03:05,290

When did you find
time to write in it?

45

00:03:05,290 --> 00:03:10,590

I'd find time just where
I'd sit or whether I'd

46

00:03:10,590 --> 00:03:15,480

be in the barracks
when we were then.

47

00:03:15,480 --> 00:03:21,090

Or, when we were on the march,
I tried to, more or less,

48
00:03:21,090 --> 00:03:23,100
fake it.

49
00:03:23,100 --> 00:03:25,840
Like I'm going to sleep.

50
00:03:25,840 --> 00:03:27,060
I'm falling asleep.

51
00:03:27,060 --> 00:03:31,840
And, well, everybody
would dose off,

52
00:03:31,840 --> 00:03:34,060
and no one knew
what I was doing.

53
00:03:34,060 --> 00:03:38,050
Why did you keep a secret
from your fellow soldiers?

54
00:03:38,050 --> 00:03:43,300
Just to prevent in case I
would run in danger of one

55
00:03:43,300 --> 00:03:45,430
of them saying something to me.

56
00:03:45,430 --> 00:03:47,800
To you or to the Germans?

57
00:03:47,800 --> 00:03:48,670
To the Germans.

58
00:03:48,670 --> 00:03:50,240
Mhm.

59
00:03:50,240 --> 00:03:54,690
And what were the events leading

up to the march from the camp?

60

00:03:54,690 --> 00:03:59,090

61

00:03:59,090 --> 00:04:05,030

That march was when
the Germans decided

62

00:04:05,030 --> 00:04:12,170

that there would be an encounter
with all the Allies almost

63

00:04:12,170 --> 00:04:14,630

coming together.

64

00:04:14,630 --> 00:04:24,790

And so the commander,
Merz and Metz,

65

00:04:24,790 --> 00:04:29,560

threatened us to the march
towards the Bavarian mountains

66

00:04:29,560 --> 00:04:32,920

where Hitler lived.

67

00:04:32,920 --> 00:04:39,310

And, on the march, I saw--

68

00:04:39,310 --> 00:04:43,300

if any of the other fellows
seen also if they noticed--

69

00:04:43,300 --> 00:04:50,202

but I saw that the Germans were
carrying umpteen in trucks,

70

00:04:50,202 --> 00:04:57,790

umpteen frames of paintings
that they had with them

71

00:04:57,790 --> 00:05:02,170
towards the mountains, and
the treasures that they

72
00:05:02,170 --> 00:05:04,540
were stealing from the--

73
00:05:04,540 --> 00:05:06,310
What did the Germans
tell you when

74
00:05:06,310 --> 00:05:08,570
they decided they were
going to evacuate the camp?

75
00:05:08,570 --> 00:05:11,850

76
00:05:11,850 --> 00:05:13,350
That we were leaving.

77
00:05:13,350 --> 00:05:17,040
They didn't tell us why, but
that we were supposed to leave.

78
00:05:17,040 --> 00:05:17,910
That's all.

79
00:05:17,910 --> 00:05:19,238
They didn't tell us why.

80
00:05:19,238 --> 00:05:21,530
Do you remember the date,
approximately, when this was?

81
00:05:21,530 --> 00:05:23,100
I have it in my diary.

82
00:05:23,100 --> 00:05:29,760
I think it happened about around
the 9th of April, 9th of April,

83

00:05:29,760 --> 00:05:34,920
something like that,
9th or 10th of April.

84
00:05:34,920 --> 00:05:37,530
And we finished.

85
00:05:37,530 --> 00:05:40,900
The end of the trip
was April the 24th--

86
00:05:40,900 --> 00:05:43,510
23rd, 23rd.

87
00:05:43,510 --> 00:05:46,690
So you were all gathered
together and told to leave.

88
00:05:46,690 --> 00:05:49,500
And what did the
Germans tell you to do?

89
00:05:49,500 --> 00:05:52,420
Do you know what
direction you walked in?

90
00:05:52,420 --> 00:05:57,560
No, just get out and start
marching, walking down

91
00:05:57,560 --> 00:05:58,850
the highway.

92
00:05:58,850 --> 00:06:05,845
And we passed Hof, a little
town of Hof, Germany.

93
00:06:05,845 --> 00:06:08,760

94
00:06:08,760 --> 00:06:15,450
We noticed some of our fellows
were getting sicker and sicker,

95
00:06:15,450 --> 00:06:18,870
and they were dying off.

96
00:06:18,870 --> 00:06:25,740
And so then we were
experiencing an attack

97
00:06:25,740 --> 00:06:33,540
by our jet fighters
against the Germans fired

98
00:06:33,540 --> 00:06:36,210
at tanks, German tanks.

99
00:06:36,210 --> 00:06:40,080
And so we had to
dodge the firing over

100
00:06:40,080 --> 00:06:42,210
towards the edge of the highway.

101
00:06:42,210 --> 00:06:45,720
Otherwise, we would
have been slaughtered

102
00:06:45,720 --> 00:06:47,410
by the machine guns.

103
00:06:47,410 --> 00:06:49,870
Did you see other
prisoners as you

104
00:06:49,870 --> 00:06:53,750
were marching from other camps?

105
00:06:53,750 --> 00:06:57,490
There was a section where we
experienced the most awesome

106
00:06:57,490 --> 00:07:05,260
thing that we ever saw since

we noticed that the Germans had

107

00:07:05,260 --> 00:07:13,930
behind us miniature tanks
operated by remote control.

108

00:07:13,930 --> 00:07:19,810
And, if we intended to
escape or do something,

109

00:07:19,810 --> 00:07:21,730
they would throw
those tanks at us,

110

00:07:21,730 --> 00:07:25,000
but they were behind
us, guarding us.

111

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:27,560
They were operated
by some German.

112

00:07:27,560 --> 00:07:29,070
I don't know how
they were doing it,

113

00:07:29,070 --> 00:07:33,310
but they had an
advanced operation.

114

00:07:33,310 --> 00:07:42,050
But, up ahead, we noticed that
the Germans were slaughtering

115

00:07:42,050 --> 00:07:42,982
political prisoners.

116

00:07:42,982 --> 00:07:44,440
We called them
political prisoners,

117

00:07:44,440 --> 00:07:45,815
but it turned out

to be they were

118
00:07:45,815 --> 00:07:53,610
Jewish fellows and
families, children, mothers,

119
00:07:53,610 --> 00:07:55,780
and older fellows.

120
00:07:55,780 --> 00:07:58,390
And they were hanging
onto the barbed wires

121
00:07:58,390 --> 00:08:01,870
as we went along, hanging
on the barbed wires

122
00:08:01,870 --> 00:08:06,250
because they tried, probably,
to escape, go over the fence.

123
00:08:06,250 --> 00:08:06,910
Where was this?

124
00:08:06,910 --> 00:08:09,340
On the road on the way to Hof?

125
00:08:09,340 --> 00:08:13,840
On the road to wherever
the liberation.

126
00:08:13,840 --> 00:08:17,330
And then, still
farther up ahead,

127
00:08:17,330 --> 00:08:21,250
then we had to pull
out of the highway.

128
00:08:21,250 --> 00:08:25,810
And I don't know why they
made us to make a shortcut

129

00:08:25,810 --> 00:08:31,270

or whatever, but we saw
a pile of same thing,

130

00:08:31,270 --> 00:08:36,750

of women and children, families.

131

00:08:36,750 --> 00:08:39,419

They were all
slaughtered, murdered.

132

00:08:39,419 --> 00:08:42,159

And they weren't just days.

133

00:08:42,159 --> 00:08:45,850

They happened
instantly ahead of us.

134

00:08:45,850 --> 00:08:48,832

They were doing it.

135

00:08:48,832 --> 00:08:53,710

And what were the-- what was the
physical condition of yourself

136

00:08:53,710 --> 00:08:55,150

and the other Americans?

137

00:08:55,150 --> 00:08:59,030

138

00:08:59,030 --> 00:09:01,730

What physical
condition were you in?

139

00:09:01,730 --> 00:09:07,180

Oh, we were just almost at the
tail end of where we just--

140

00:09:07,180 --> 00:09:11,290

our men were dropping,
dropping off the highway out

141
00:09:11,290 --> 00:09:14,710
of the lines of the March.

142
00:09:14,710 --> 00:09:19,630
Our cart that we
pulled and pushed

143
00:09:19,630 --> 00:09:25,090
was full of our sick men,
and we could barely pull it

144
00:09:25,090 --> 00:09:26,440
because of our strength.

145
00:09:26,440 --> 00:09:29,440
There was no strength
at all with all of us

146
00:09:29,440 --> 00:09:31,510
being without food and water.

147
00:09:31,510 --> 00:09:32,800
What did you-- sorry.

148
00:09:32,800 --> 00:09:37,410
And, up ahead, we kept
on going, and some

149
00:09:37,410 --> 00:09:41,150
were dropping out of the lines.

150
00:09:41,150 --> 00:09:50,560
And so we would stop by a
barn and rest for a minute

151
00:09:50,560 --> 00:09:51,280
or whatever.

152
00:09:51,280 --> 00:09:54,310
They would let us rest.

153

00:09:54,310 --> 00:10:00,770

The snow started to melt,
which was April, part of April,

154

00:10:00,770 --> 00:10:04,450

when the snow was
getting less and less,

155

00:10:04,450 --> 00:10:06,680

but it was still cold.

156

00:10:06,680 --> 00:10:09,056

What did you do at night?

157

00:10:09,056 --> 00:10:09,764

Kept on marching.

158

00:10:09,764 --> 00:10:10,764

Did you march all night?

159

00:10:10,764 --> 00:10:12,140

Kept on marching,
sometimes, kept

160

00:10:12,140 --> 00:10:14,390

on marching until
the Germans told us

161

00:10:14,390 --> 00:10:17,760

to pull over and take a break.

162

00:10:17,760 --> 00:10:19,440

And were you given any food--

163

00:10:19,440 --> 00:10:19,940

No.

164

00:10:19,940 --> 00:10:21,148

--when you were able to stop?

165

00:10:21,148 --> 00:10:30,080

Until Hof, we went
through Hof, and they

166
00:10:30,080 --> 00:10:39,240
gave us boiled eggs and
spuds, but that was just then.

167
00:10:39,240 --> 00:10:42,840
After that we kept
on marching again.

168
00:10:42,840 --> 00:10:48,030
And some fellows tried to escape
and go to other farms just

169
00:10:48,030 --> 00:10:49,980
to get away from the lines.

170
00:10:49,980 --> 00:10:51,940
Were they successful?

171
00:10:51,940 --> 00:10:52,440
Some were.

172
00:10:52,440 --> 00:10:53,530
Some weren't.

173
00:10:53,530 --> 00:10:57,060
They would be caught up,
and either they were shot at

174
00:10:57,060 --> 00:11:01,950
or were able to escape
and get back to the lines.

175
00:11:01,950 --> 00:11:05,520
You said a lot of men died
during the death march.

176
00:11:05,520 --> 00:11:07,680
What did-- what
happened to them?

177

00:11:07,680 --> 00:11:09,390

What did you do
with them if they--

178

00:11:09,390 --> 00:11:11,557

We couldn't do anything
because the Germans wouldn't

179

00:11:11,557 --> 00:11:13,620

let us do anything at all.

180

00:11:13,620 --> 00:11:15,360

Bury them or whatever,
they wouldn't

181

00:11:15,360 --> 00:11:21,000

let us do nothing unless we
were stationed in one spot.

182

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:26,040

Either they would let us
pull them over and leave them

183

00:11:26,040 --> 00:11:27,870

right there in the spot.

184

00:11:27,870 --> 00:11:31,860

Otherwise, they wouldn't let
us do anything to bury them

185

00:11:31,860 --> 00:11:35,710

unless we were in a camp,
like we were in the barracks.

186

00:11:35,710 --> 00:11:37,590

Right, right.

187

00:11:37,590 --> 00:11:41,880

And so do you know how many
days you were marching?

188

00:11:41,880 --> 00:11:43,230

Do you remember?

189
00:11:43,230 --> 00:11:45,450
Well, from the day of--

190
00:11:45,450 --> 00:11:53,220
that day we left, about April
9th, and we got as far as Cham,

191
00:11:53,220 --> 00:12:02,190
Germany, C-H-A-M. And that
was on the 24th of April--

192
00:12:02,190 --> 00:12:02,978
And what happened?

193
00:12:02,978 --> 00:12:04,020
--when we were liberated.

194
00:12:04,020 --> 00:12:10,200
We wound up in this big barn,
and that was the end of it.

195
00:12:10,200 --> 00:12:16,280
We got out there,
and it was awesome

196
00:12:16,280 --> 00:12:21,440
because, when we got in there,
we were welcomed by the owners.

197
00:12:21,440 --> 00:12:26,330
And they brought us food
and all that, but, to sleep,

198
00:12:26,330 --> 00:12:28,985
we had to sleep on the
slush of the animals.

199
00:12:28,985 --> 00:12:32,633

200

00:12:32,633 --> 00:12:35,230

But we were able to
eat some of the bread.

201

00:12:35,230 --> 00:12:38,720

The bread was a black
bread, their good bread.

202

00:12:38,720 --> 00:12:43,190

203

00:12:43,190 --> 00:12:45,380

And then, suddenly, very
early in the morning,

204

00:12:45,380 --> 00:12:48,290

the German commander--

205

00:12:48,290 --> 00:12:53,600

well, we all heard firing
in the distance, thundering.

206

00:12:53,600 --> 00:12:57,920

So we heard that there
were tanks approaching.

207

00:12:57,920 --> 00:12:59,810

And we didn't know
whether they were

208

00:12:59,810 --> 00:13:03,890

Americans or French or English
or whatever or Russians.

209

00:13:03,890 --> 00:13:09,410

But the Germans started
to feel the heat,

210

00:13:09,410 --> 00:13:13,030

and so they wanted
us to follow them.

211

00:13:13,030 --> 00:13:17,520

And so they pushed-- they
pulled their rifles against us

212
00:13:17,520 --> 00:13:22,430
and pointed at us and said
either we go with them,

213
00:13:22,430 --> 00:13:24,800
or they'll shoot us.

214
00:13:24,800 --> 00:13:26,990
That's what they wanted to do.

215
00:13:26,990 --> 00:13:33,470
So, as I yelled back at them and
the other medic, we're medics,

216
00:13:33,470 --> 00:13:36,230
and we're taking
care of these men.

217
00:13:36,230 --> 00:13:38,030
And they're dying.

218
00:13:38,030 --> 00:13:42,500
One just died-- or two
just died just a while ago.

219
00:13:42,500 --> 00:13:43,820
So how can we go?

220
00:13:43,820 --> 00:13:46,660
They can't walk anymore.

221
00:13:46,660 --> 00:13:51,450
So, before you knew
it, they too escaped,

222
00:13:51,450 --> 00:13:55,680
and the guards turned in--

223
00:13:55,680 --> 00:13:57,750

gave us their rifles.

224

00:13:57,750 --> 00:14:01,380

And they said we'll
stay with you.

225

00:14:01,380 --> 00:14:06,020

And we started to hear the
rumbling getting closer.

226

00:14:06,020 --> 00:14:10,460

And then we all started to
run towards the highway.

227

00:14:10,460 --> 00:14:14,970

And, when we got to the highway,
the tanks with the 11th Armored

228

00:14:14,970 --> 00:14:17,820

Division liberated us.

229

00:14:17,820 --> 00:14:19,950

Going back just a
little bit, when

230

00:14:19,950 --> 00:14:23,040

you were on the
death march, did you

231

00:14:23,040 --> 00:14:28,050

have any sense of what was going
on with the war around you, as

232

00:14:28,050 --> 00:14:30,595

far as how close the Allies
were getting or any news

233

00:14:30,595 --> 00:14:32,970

that you were receiving now
that you weren't in the camp?

234

00:14:32,970 --> 00:14:35,190

We didn't even know

what was going on

235

00:14:35,190 --> 00:14:38,550
until we found out
that the Americans were

236

00:14:38,550 --> 00:14:40,380
making a big sweep.

237

00:14:40,380 --> 00:14:44,970
And, when they saw us, they
thought that we were enemies

238

00:14:44,970 --> 00:14:47,325
and that we were camouflaged.

239

00:14:47,325 --> 00:14:48,840
And we didn't have the--

240

00:14:48,840 --> 00:14:51,072
When the 11th Armored
Division found you?

241

00:14:51,072 --> 00:14:52,530
The 11th Armored
Division saw that.

242

00:14:52,530 --> 00:14:54,630
When they saw that
we were Americans

243

00:14:54,630 --> 00:15:00,270
and we spoke English very
well, then they welcomed us.

244

00:15:00,270 --> 00:15:06,600
And one of them pulled me
like a beet, a string beet,

245

00:15:06,600 --> 00:15:08,460
pulled me up on top of the tank.

246

00:15:08,460 --> 00:15:16,140
And I just sighed with relief
that we were in their hands.

247
00:15:16,140 --> 00:15:21,480
And, as we were running
towards the tanks,

248
00:15:21,480 --> 00:15:25,680
some fellows started to fall
dead because of the excitement

249
00:15:25,680 --> 00:15:29,040
and because of the weakness.

250
00:15:29,040 --> 00:15:32,435
What was it like to see that
white star on that tank,

251
00:15:32,435 --> 00:15:33,810
to know that they
were Americans?

252
00:15:33,810 --> 00:15:34,080
We were so excited.

253
00:15:34,080 --> 00:15:35,040
We cried.

254
00:15:35,040 --> 00:15:37,770
We cried.

255
00:15:37,770 --> 00:15:41,790
We were so excited that
we couldn't say anymore.

256
00:15:41,790 --> 00:15:51,060
And, as I was on the top of
the tank, one of the fellows

257
00:15:51,060 --> 00:15:54,350
said, look, there's
a girl with a--

258
00:15:54,350 --> 00:16:00,570
it was a young girl,
oh, probably in her 20s.

259
00:16:00,570 --> 00:16:03,780
And she had a jug of milk.

260
00:16:03,780 --> 00:16:08,910
And he said, well, let's
get that milk for you guys

261
00:16:08,910 --> 00:16:10,290
so that you can drink.

262
00:16:10,290 --> 00:16:13,350
And he was not aware--

263
00:16:13,350 --> 00:16:15,390
and we felt hungry.

264
00:16:15,390 --> 00:16:19,500
And we started drinking it.

265
00:16:19,500 --> 00:16:20,610
Well,

266
00:16:20,610 --> 00:16:23,520
Lord behold, it made us sick.

267
00:16:23,520 --> 00:16:26,890
My stomach went like this.

268
00:16:26,890 --> 00:16:32,440
We weren't far
away from the place

269
00:16:32,440 --> 00:16:34,860
where the Americans
had already established

270

00:16:34,860 --> 00:16:41,250
themselves a hospital that
they had to pump the milk out.

271
00:16:41,250 --> 00:16:44,077
Do you remember the first
thing you said to the Americans

272
00:16:44,077 --> 00:16:44,910
when they found you?

273
00:16:44,910 --> 00:16:49,227

274
00:16:49,227 --> 00:16:50,310
There were so many things.

275
00:16:50,310 --> 00:16:55,410
I just think, God,
God liberated us.

276
00:16:55,410 --> 00:16:58,680
And all the fellows cried,
and some kneeled down

277
00:16:58,680 --> 00:17:05,138
and cried and kissed the ground
because of the liberation.

278
00:17:05,138 --> 00:17:08,069
And, of the 350
Americans that were

279
00:17:08,069 --> 00:17:12,030
taken to Berga, how many were
still alive at this point?

280
00:17:12,030 --> 00:17:27,710
We come out of there
approximately 185 out of 350.

281
00:17:27,710 --> 00:17:33,347
But then, after that,

they started to die off.

282

00:17:33,347 --> 00:17:34,055

After liberation?

283

00:17:34,055 --> 00:17:36,170

After the liberation, yes.

284

00:17:36,170 --> 00:17:38,720

Why was that?

285

00:17:38,720 --> 00:17:51,180

The conditions,
shock, and reactions,

286

00:17:51,180 --> 00:17:53,040

resistance to the body.

287

00:17:53,040 --> 00:17:55,410

It couldn't take it anymore.

288

00:17:55,410 --> 00:17:58,370

How much did you weigh
when you were liberated?

289

00:17:58,370 --> 00:18:02,790

Well, when I was
captured, I weighed 149.

290

00:18:02,790 --> 00:18:06,120

And, when I was liberated,
I weighed 87 pounds.

291

00:18:06,120 --> 00:18:08,970

292

00:18:08,970 --> 00:18:12,420

And where did the
Americans take you?

293

00:18:12,420 --> 00:18:17,400

They took us to a hospital

there at Cham, Germany.

294

00:18:17,400 --> 00:18:21,720

It was just a regular
tent hospital.

295

00:18:21,720 --> 00:18:26,680

They stripped us from everything
we had on to be burned.

296

00:18:26,680 --> 00:18:36,810

And we showered, and
we were injected--

297

00:18:36,810 --> 00:18:38,550

With what?

298

00:18:38,550 --> 00:18:44,100

--against infections or
whatever and inspected for lice.

299

00:18:44,100 --> 00:18:48,540

And they gave us new clothes.

300

00:18:48,540 --> 00:18:55,110

And then some of us were
flown to Reims, France.

301

00:18:55,110 --> 00:19:00,090

And some were flown
to other hospitals,

302

00:19:00,090 --> 00:19:03,240

depending on the conditions.

303

00:19:03,240 --> 00:19:07,280

What was it like for
you that first night

304

00:19:07,280 --> 00:19:12,605

that you were in a real bed in
this hospital after liberation?

305

00:19:12,605 --> 00:19:15,460

306

00:19:15,460 --> 00:19:20,780

I thought I was floating in
water because of the fact

307

00:19:20,780 --> 00:19:32,120

that I slept on the ground and
slept on the rocks, the snow.

308

00:19:32,120 --> 00:19:35,020

You just freeze to death.

309

00:19:35,020 --> 00:19:42,280

And, sleeping on a bed, you
just totally fall asleep.

310

00:19:42,280 --> 00:19:49,210

I remember still,
at the liberation,

311

00:19:49,210 --> 00:19:53,130

there was a factory
close by Cham.

312

00:19:53,130 --> 00:19:55,980

And I decided to
go see where they

313

00:19:55,980 --> 00:20:00,160

manufactured the famous
camera, the German cameras.

314

00:20:00,160 --> 00:20:07,270

And I got a microscope,
electronic microscope,

315

00:20:07,270 --> 00:20:11,500

that the Germans
were famous for.

316

00:20:11,500 --> 00:20:21,800

And someone, an
Austrian, gave me,

317

00:20:21,800 --> 00:20:28,860

as a gift, a cross, a
beautiful cross, silver.

318

00:20:28,860 --> 00:20:34,630

Well, I put it to the side
of my bed, and I fell asleep.

319

00:20:34,630 --> 00:20:46,210

By, the next morning, the
micro thing disappeared.

320

00:20:46,210 --> 00:20:48,545

I never saw again, but
the cross was there.

321

00:20:48,545 --> 00:20:49,420

Do you still have it?

322

00:20:49,420 --> 00:20:50,945

Yes, I still have it, yeah.

323

00:20:50,945 --> 00:20:54,770

324

00:20:54,770 --> 00:20:57,530

It was awesome.

325

00:20:57,530 --> 00:21:02,450

One of my sons has the cross,
but I couldn't believe it.

326

00:21:02,450 --> 00:21:06,180

Then they flew me to--

327

00:21:06,180 --> 00:21:08,190

they flew a group of us.

328

00:21:08,190 --> 00:21:12,410
They flew us to a general
hospital in Reims, France.

329
00:21:12,410 --> 00:21:16,150
And did you have difficulty
sleeping at night?

330
00:21:16,150 --> 00:21:18,750
Or, you know, now you're
sleeping on a cloud,

331
00:21:18,750 --> 00:21:19,920
as you say.

332
00:21:19,920 --> 00:21:23,790
Was it difficult for
you to rest after what

333
00:21:23,790 --> 00:21:26,760
you had just been through
physically and mentally?

334
00:21:26,760 --> 00:21:32,130
For moments, I did
because of the dreams.

335
00:21:32,130 --> 00:21:33,630
What kind of dreams
were you having?

336
00:21:33,630 --> 00:21:36,180

337
00:21:36,180 --> 00:21:40,030
Just remembering back,
bringing back dreams,

338
00:21:40,030 --> 00:21:47,760
and thinking of the fellows,
what they were feeling like,

339
00:21:47,760 --> 00:21:52,557

the pain, and reminiscing.

340

00:21:52,557 --> 00:21:55,140

The fellows that were with you
or the ones who didn't make it?

341

00:21:55,140 --> 00:21:58,840

That were with me,
that I was able to--

342

00:21:58,840 --> 00:22:01,890

in the barracks, we were all--

343

00:22:01,890 --> 00:22:05,020

the condition that they
were looking forward

344

00:22:05,020 --> 00:22:08,760

and that they couldn't
be treated because we

345

00:22:08,760 --> 00:22:12,860

didn't have the proper
medications at all.

346

00:22:12,860 --> 00:22:14,610

What was it like at
night in the barracks?

347

00:22:14,610 --> 00:22:19,740

348

00:22:19,740 --> 00:22:35,230

It was just a thought after
another thought of thinking,

349

00:22:35,230 --> 00:22:41,510

praying that there won't
be another day like this.

350

00:22:41,510 --> 00:22:46,853

And what gave you hope to get
through all of those dark days?

351
00:22:46,853 --> 00:22:47,770
What did you think of?

352
00:22:47,770 --> 00:22:50,780

353
00:22:50,780 --> 00:22:53,810
Just prayed with
faith that nothing

354
00:22:53,810 --> 00:22:56,420
like this happened again.

355
00:22:56,420 --> 00:22:59,780
You mean, overall, or
just being in the camp

356
00:22:59,780 --> 00:23:01,010
didn't happen again?

357
00:23:01,010 --> 00:23:03,680
Overall.

358
00:23:03,680 --> 00:23:13,230
Because a lot of fellows
have different ways

359
00:23:13,230 --> 00:23:17,790
of approaching
conditions and thoughts

360
00:23:17,790 --> 00:23:22,830
and approaching things that--

361
00:23:22,830 --> 00:23:29,500
they didn't consider that in
reality why this and why that.

362
00:23:29,500 --> 00:23:33,365
And we hope that it doesn't
happen to anyone like this,

363
00:23:33,365 --> 00:23:34,240
what we went through.

364
00:23:34,240 --> 00:23:36,790

365
00:23:36,790 --> 00:23:40,390
And we used to keep
after, one after another.

366
00:23:40,390 --> 00:23:42,900

367
00:23:42,900 --> 00:23:46,620
How come that we had
to go through this?

368
00:23:46,620 --> 00:23:50,610
Why did they designated
us to go through this?

369
00:23:50,610 --> 00:23:53,310

370
00:23:53,310 --> 00:23:56,310
How long were you in
the hospital in Germany?

371
00:23:56,310 --> 00:24:00,740

372
00:24:00,740 --> 00:24:06,810
From April the 24th,
liberation day--

373
00:24:06,810 --> 00:24:12,900
let's see, April, May.

374
00:24:12,900 --> 00:24:24,030
With all total, between that
date until May, May the 28th,

375

00:24:24,030 --> 00:24:30,600

something like that, between
Cham and Reims, France.

376

00:24:30,600 --> 00:24:41,925

And we left-- we left France
by ship to come to New Jersey.

377

00:24:41,925 --> 00:24:44,520

378

00:24:44,520 --> 00:24:51,395

We left about the first
part of June of '45.

379

00:24:51,395 --> 00:24:54,070

380

00:24:54,070 --> 00:24:57,140

And, going back again, when
you were recuperating now

381

00:24:57,140 --> 00:25:01,720

in the hospital or even when
you were liberated by the 11th,

382

00:25:01,720 --> 00:25:02,870

did they--

383

00:25:02,870 --> 00:25:05,930

what was their reaction
when you told them

384

00:25:05,930 --> 00:25:07,430

we had been in a
concentration camp?

385

00:25:07,430 --> 00:25:10,670

386

00:25:10,670 --> 00:25:12,620

To the hospital people?

387

00:25:12,620 --> 00:25:15,920

To your liberators, to
the hospital people.

388

00:25:15,920 --> 00:25:19,560

Did people-- what was
their reaction to that?

389

00:25:19,560 --> 00:25:22,170

They couldn't believe
it after they saw us

390

00:25:22,170 --> 00:25:23,670

and the condition that we were.

391

00:25:23,670 --> 00:25:28,010

At first, they thought
that we were camouflaged,

392

00:25:28,010 --> 00:25:34,760

that we purposely dressed
that way to simulate

393

00:25:34,760 --> 00:25:36,225

that we weren't soldiers.

394

00:25:36,225 --> 00:25:40,097

395

00:25:40,097 --> 00:25:41,680

That you were
undercover or something?

396

00:25:41,680 --> 00:25:46,162

Undercover, yeah, they
thought we were undercover.

397

00:25:46,162 --> 00:25:47,870

And how did you-- what
did you tell them?

398

00:25:47,870 --> 00:25:50,690

No, after that, they
believed it because, when

399

00:25:50,690 --> 00:25:56,300

they saw that some fellows
died right in front of us,

400

00:25:56,300 --> 00:25:59,860

the condition they saw,
they couldn't believe it.

401

00:25:59,860 --> 00:26:03,980

And do, finally, the
tank started to approach,

402

00:26:03,980 --> 00:26:09,530

and the ambulances started
getting closer and picking up

403

00:26:09,530 --> 00:26:11,270

all the fellows.

404

00:26:11,270 --> 00:26:14,510

Did you see-- when you were
recovering in the hospital,

405

00:26:14,510 --> 00:26:18,110

did you see any
other camp survivors

406

00:26:18,110 --> 00:26:20,640

or had the opportunity to
speak with any other POWs?

407

00:26:20,640 --> 00:26:27,230

No, no, we didn't because
they had us very secluded.

408

00:26:27,230 --> 00:26:29,540

Why did they keep you secluded?

409

00:26:29,540 --> 00:26:34,110
Just to keep us close,
to prevent any--

410
00:26:34,110 --> 00:26:37,300

411
00:26:37,300 --> 00:26:41,030
I mean, some fellows tried
to escape because of fear

412
00:26:41,030 --> 00:26:46,340
or because of reactions
to the medications

413
00:26:46,340 --> 00:26:49,540
and whatever because some
effects of the medications,

414
00:26:49,540 --> 00:26:52,070
it fired back at them.

415
00:26:52,070 --> 00:27:00,380
And then, right then, when we
left the hospital, and then

416
00:27:00,380 --> 00:27:05,330
some had to leave by plane
to the United States because

417
00:27:05,330 --> 00:27:06,740
of the condition.

418
00:27:06,740 --> 00:27:09,890

419
00:27:09,890 --> 00:27:14,410
Like Norm Fellman had to leave
by plane because of his--

420
00:27:14,410 --> 00:27:17,720
he would have had
his leg amputated

421
00:27:17,720 --> 00:27:20,930
because of the severe
infection he had.

422
00:27:20,930 --> 00:27:26,762
And, lucky, at that time, the
penicillin had been discovered.

423
00:27:26,762 --> 00:27:30,100
And he'll never forget
it because he says, Tony.

424
00:27:30,100 --> 00:27:34,700
He says that penicillin
saved my life, saved my leg,

425
00:27:34,700 --> 00:27:36,035
because it turned gangrene.

426
00:27:36,035 --> 00:27:39,830

427
00:27:39,830 --> 00:27:48,080
But we were, in
leaving England--

428
00:27:48,080 --> 00:27:56,013
I mean, France, we were
forced to sign an affidavit.

429
00:27:56,013 --> 00:27:56,930
So I was going to ask.

430
00:27:56,930 --> 00:28:00,460
Did anyone from the Army come
visit you in the hospital?

431
00:28:00,460 --> 00:28:08,240
Yeah, I went to a Lucky
Strike, the distributing center

432

00:28:08,240 --> 00:28:15,100
just before getting to the ship.

433
00:28:15,100 --> 00:28:17,900
And we had to sign
an affidavit where

434
00:28:17,900 --> 00:28:26,120
we had to swear that we
never were in the condition

435
00:28:26,120 --> 00:28:30,020
or suffered in the
condition that we had

436
00:28:30,020 --> 00:28:32,810
to go through by the Germans.

437
00:28:32,810 --> 00:28:35,323
Was this something that all
POWs had to sign, no matter

438
00:28:35,323 --> 00:28:35,990
where they were?

439
00:28:35,990 --> 00:28:42,570
I found out that very
few of us had to do it.

440
00:28:42,570 --> 00:28:43,880
I don't know why.

441
00:28:43,880 --> 00:28:46,006
Norm had to sign it.

442
00:28:46,006 --> 00:28:48,710
I remember he said
he had to sign it.

443
00:28:48,710 --> 00:28:51,800
And others, a few of
them, had to sign it.

444

00:28:51,800 --> 00:28:55,070

I had to sign it.

445

00:28:55,070 --> 00:28:57,260

Was it just the Berga
guys who had to sign this?

446

00:28:57,260 --> 00:28:59,240

Yes, only the Berga guys.

447

00:28:59,240 --> 00:29:01,870

But other POWs never
had to sign this form?

448

00:29:01,870 --> 00:29:02,430

No, no, no.

449

00:29:02,430 --> 00:29:04,740

And what was the Army's
reason for making

450

00:29:04,740 --> 00:29:05,740

you sign this affidavit?

451

00:29:05,740 --> 00:29:06,470

What did it say?

452

00:29:06,470 --> 00:29:07,820

We came out under the--

453

00:29:07,820 --> 00:29:11,690

454

00:29:11,690 --> 00:29:15,350

funny thing, you
wouldn't believe it.

455

00:29:15,350 --> 00:29:26,270

I have to inject this because,
at the time Wayne Drash--

456

00:29:26,270 --> 00:29:27,250
From CNN?

457
00:29:27,250 --> 00:29:34,580
--from CNN approached
me, I, by coincidence--

458
00:29:34,580 --> 00:29:44,680
I get this magazine,
World War II History.

459
00:29:44,680 --> 00:29:50,110
And that magazine showed
the nine scientists

460
00:29:50,110 --> 00:29:51,070
that Germany had.

461
00:29:51,070 --> 00:29:54,020

462
00:29:54,020 --> 00:29:58,280
And we found out
the United States

463
00:29:58,280 --> 00:30:06,775
was involved with [INAUDIBLE]
Corporation, Ford, General

464
00:30:06,775 --> 00:30:07,275
Motors.

465
00:30:07,275 --> 00:30:09,970

466
00:30:09,970 --> 00:30:13,230
Oh, and then, the
wordage of why,

467
00:30:13,230 --> 00:30:18,700
because we would also
affect the Americans

468

00:30:18,700 --> 00:30:23,310

fighting and their
prisoners by the Japanese.

469

00:30:23,310 --> 00:30:26,540

And they would be
severely tortured.

470

00:30:26,540 --> 00:30:34,020

Well, the United States
was involved with Toshiba,

471

00:30:34,020 --> 00:30:38,815

Mitsubishi, and you name it.

472

00:30:38,815 --> 00:30:44,820

But who did we hire
for Space and Comm?

473

00:30:44,820 --> 00:30:52,710

When I went to work for
Space, right after '45, months

474

00:30:52,710 --> 00:30:53,525

afterwards--

475

00:30:53,525 --> 00:30:56,070

476

00:30:56,070 --> 00:30:57,885

which I wanted to be a doctor.

477

00:30:57,885 --> 00:31:02,790

And it turned out to be I
knew how to design because I

478

00:31:02,790 --> 00:31:06,840

could do the design very well.

479

00:31:06,840 --> 00:31:19,095

And I drew a sketch of
the Reims Cathedral.

480
00:31:19,095 --> 00:31:21,220
I don't know if you've even
seen it or you've been,

481
00:31:21,220 --> 00:31:27,190
but it's composed
of all the arcs

482
00:31:27,190 --> 00:31:32,210
and statuettes are
made by statues,

483
00:31:32,210 --> 00:31:33,940
the arcs and everything.

484
00:31:33,940 --> 00:31:41,140
And I put it for
a contest in LA.

485
00:31:41,140 --> 00:31:43,900
Well, I won the
first prize to be

486
00:31:43,900 --> 00:31:46,660
a designer at Hughes Aircraft.

487
00:31:46,660 --> 00:31:49,390
I went to work
for Howard Hughes.

488
00:31:49,390 --> 00:31:50,200
Who do I meet?

489
00:31:50,200 --> 00:31:51,530
The scientists from Germany.

490
00:31:51,530 --> 00:31:54,040

491
00:31:54,040 --> 00:31:56,950
They were hired by

the United States.

492

00:31:56,950 --> 00:32:02,820

The United States took
scientists, German scientists,

493

00:32:02,820 --> 00:32:05,790

for aerospace.

494

00:32:05,790 --> 00:32:12,300

The Titan missiles
and the V-I and V-II

495

00:32:12,300 --> 00:32:18,450

were duplicated in the
United States by von Braun.

496

00:32:18,450 --> 00:32:22,110

And he was one of
our top scientists.

497

00:32:22,110 --> 00:32:24,420

Going back to the
document, did you

498

00:32:24,420 --> 00:32:28,080

ever think about not signing
the document, the affidavit?

499

00:32:28,080 --> 00:32:30,030

Did you have that choice?

500

00:32:30,030 --> 00:32:35,830

No, they threatened us
to be jailed, federally,

501

00:32:35,830 --> 00:32:38,260

by the United States government.

502

00:32:38,260 --> 00:32:45,250

We had never received
an apology by nothing.

503

00:32:45,250 --> 00:32:48,220

And I'll interject this.

504

00:32:48,220 --> 00:32:51,220

505

00:32:51,220 --> 00:32:56,140

We never received an
apology from our government.

506

00:32:56,140 --> 00:33:03,250

And, when we were discharged,
thank you for your services.

507

00:33:03,250 --> 00:33:07,780

Well, to provide
you for the minimum

508

00:33:07,780 --> 00:33:11,680

of what you served
as a prisoner,

509

00:33:11,680 --> 00:33:18,190

we are sending you \$150 a month.

510

00:33:18,190 --> 00:33:22,350

And that turned out
to be for six months.

511

00:33:22,350 --> 00:33:23,820

How does that make you feel?

512

00:33:23,820 --> 00:33:24,990

I would've been very angry.

513

00:33:24,990 --> 00:33:26,940

What was your reaction to that?

514

00:33:26,940 --> 00:33:29,250

We were angry.

515

00:33:29,250 --> 00:33:32,490
It was a slap in the face.

516
00:33:32,490 --> 00:33:36,870
Years later, we
received a document

517
00:33:36,870 --> 00:33:46,810
by a lawyer, William Marks,
an attorney for the--

518
00:33:46,810 --> 00:33:48,880
I have the copies on it.

519
00:33:48,880 --> 00:33:51,530
I wish I had shown it to you.

520
00:33:51,530 --> 00:34:05,370
And he was a lawyer for the
Holocaust, a group of people

521
00:34:05,370 --> 00:34:09,230
pertaining to the Holocaust.

522
00:34:09,230 --> 00:34:15,929
We received \$100,000 from the
Holocaust, all of us survivors.

523
00:34:15,929 --> 00:34:17,139
From the Claims Conference?

524
00:34:17,139 --> 00:34:18,972
Or do you know the name
of the organization?

525
00:34:18,972 --> 00:34:22,500
From the Holocaust with
the help of this attorney

526
00:34:22,500 --> 00:34:23,885
that worked for them.

527

00:34:23,885 --> 00:34:29,960

OK, and-- my mind
just went blank.

528

00:34:29,960 --> 00:34:33,870

529

00:34:33,870 --> 00:34:39,602

Norm Fellman would let you know
to because he's our witness.

530

00:34:39,602 --> 00:34:41,060

I remember what I
was going to ask.

531

00:34:41,060 --> 00:34:44,810

The German soldiers
who were guarding you

532

00:34:44,810 --> 00:34:49,370

during the death march who
turned themselves in to you

533

00:34:49,370 --> 00:34:52,429

before you were liberated, do
you know what happened to them?

534

00:34:52,429 --> 00:34:54,949

We never knew what
happened to them.

535

00:34:54,949 --> 00:34:56,690

They probably might
have been liberated

536

00:34:56,690 --> 00:35:03,350

because they were not
part of the atrocities

537

00:35:03,350 --> 00:35:04,430

that they did to our men.

538

00:35:04,430 --> 00:35:08,070

539
00:35:08,070 --> 00:35:11,690
Metz and Merz--

540
00:35:11,690 --> 00:35:13,000
The commanders of the camp.

541
00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:15,200
--were supposed to
be sentenced to hang.

542
00:35:15,200 --> 00:35:16,840
They were the
commanders of Berga.

543
00:35:16,840 --> 00:35:18,440
The commanders of the camp.

544
00:35:18,440 --> 00:35:20,510
They were brought to trial?

545
00:35:20,510 --> 00:35:21,860
They went to trial.

546
00:35:21,860 --> 00:35:23,270
They went to trial.

547
00:35:23,270 --> 00:35:25,520
Were you guys part of that?

548
00:35:25,520 --> 00:35:26,270
Do I have that?

549
00:35:26,270 --> 00:35:29,240
Were you and any of the
other Berga survivors

550
00:35:29,240 --> 00:35:30,080
part of that trial?

551

00:35:30,080 --> 00:35:30,710
No, no.

552
00:35:30,710 --> 00:35:31,700
You didn't testify?

553
00:35:31,700 --> 00:35:33,650
They didn't even ask us.

554
00:35:33,650 --> 00:35:37,550
But I understand that Truman--

555
00:35:37,550 --> 00:35:41,340

556
00:35:41,340 --> 00:35:45,050
Merz was supposed to hang by--

557
00:35:45,050 --> 00:35:47,410
yeah, they were
supposed to hang.

558
00:35:47,410 --> 00:35:56,550
And, instead of hanging,
they pardoned him,

559
00:35:56,550 --> 00:36:06,070
and they gave him 20 years
of prison, then five years.

560
00:36:06,070 --> 00:36:09,350
Then he was liberated.

561
00:36:09,350 --> 00:36:12,390
Did you ever find out why?

562
00:36:12,390 --> 00:36:12,890
Never.

563
00:36:12,890 --> 00:36:15,593

564

00:36:15,593 --> 00:36:17,010

I understand he
committed suicide.

565

00:36:17,010 --> 00:36:20,310

566

00:36:20,310 --> 00:36:22,290

But why did Truman
knowing that he

567

00:36:22,290 --> 00:36:29,370

was an assassin to all those
fellows that were prisoners?

568

00:36:29,370 --> 00:36:33,122

He was a murderer
along with Metz.

569

00:36:33,122 --> 00:36:34,580

And what happened
to the other one?

570

00:36:34,580 --> 00:36:40,910

571

00:36:40,910 --> 00:36:44,020

I think he--

572

00:36:44,020 --> 00:36:44,950

I have it in my book.

573

00:36:44,950 --> 00:36:51,325

574

00:36:51,325 --> 00:36:55,000

I think he must have--

575

00:36:55,000 --> 00:37:00,430

he was liberated,
and he hung himself.

576

00:37:00,430 --> 00:37:02,450

So he also committed suicide.

577

00:37:02,450 --> 00:37:03,130

Yeah.

578

00:37:03,130 --> 00:37:05,970

OK, I'm going to--

579

00:37:05,970 --> 00:37:09,530

we're going to pause because

I think we're going to switch.

580

00:37:09,530 --> 00:37:11,080

Yeah, I'm OK.

581

00:37:11,080 --> 00:37:15,138

OK, and you have 26

minutes left on this tape.

582

00:37:15,138 --> 00:37:16,430

All right, Christina, any time.

583

00:37:16,430 --> 00:37:17,630

OK.

584

00:37:17,630 --> 00:37:23,430

OK, this is the continuation

of tape three of the interview

585

00:37:23,430 --> 00:37:25,290

with Anthony Acevedo.

586

00:37:25,290 --> 00:37:29,650

This is the aftermath

after the liberation.

587

00:37:29,650 --> 00:37:34,260

And so how long were

you in New Jersey

588

00:37:34,260 --> 00:37:39,300
after you returned from Europe,
and you went to New Jersey?

589
00:37:39,300 --> 00:37:42,870
When I returned to New
Jersey from Europe?

590
00:37:42,870 --> 00:37:44,380
Yes.

591
00:37:44,380 --> 00:37:50,030
Well, isn't it funny?

592
00:37:50,030 --> 00:37:51,530
We were put in a sardines.

593
00:37:51,530 --> 00:37:55,950
We called it sardines,
the ship we came back.

594
00:37:55,950 --> 00:38:04,110
And there were only about
85 of us in that ship.

595
00:38:04,110 --> 00:38:09,460
And the ship had
food for 60 days.

596
00:38:09,460 --> 00:38:16,040
And we ate the food in 10 days.

597
00:38:16,040 --> 00:38:17,130
In 10 days?

598
00:38:17,130 --> 00:38:19,180
In 10 days.

599
00:38:19,180 --> 00:38:22,010
And how long were
you on the ship then?

600

00:38:22,010 --> 00:38:25,100

601
00:38:25,100 --> 00:38:26,120
10 days.

602
00:38:26,120 --> 00:38:26,830
10 days.

603
00:38:26,830 --> 00:38:27,680
So the food lasted.

604
00:38:27,680 --> 00:38:30,830
Yeah, to get back to New Jersey.

605
00:38:30,830 --> 00:38:34,020
Getting off the--
getting off the plank

606
00:38:34,020 --> 00:38:41,640
there was a surprise to us.

607
00:38:41,640 --> 00:38:45,540
We were coming down the
plank, and the Red Cross

608
00:38:45,540 --> 00:38:51,570
had a big banner that
said welcome POWs.

609
00:38:51,570 --> 00:38:55,000
And how did that make
you feel, what welcome?

610
00:38:55,000 --> 00:38:56,910
Me us sick.

611
00:38:56,910 --> 00:38:57,960
It made you sick?

612
00:38:57,960 --> 00:39:00,810
Because we didn't

have a penny to us,

613
00:39:00,810 --> 00:39:02,460
and they were selling
us the chocolates

614
00:39:02,460 --> 00:39:04,560
and the donuts and the coffee.

615
00:39:04,560 --> 00:39:06,190
And we didn't have
one penny with us.

616
00:39:06,190 --> 00:39:08,800

617
00:39:08,800 --> 00:39:13,520
And I said-- with
the fellows, I said

618
00:39:13,520 --> 00:39:15,932
you mean to tell me
we were prisoners,

619
00:39:15,932 --> 00:39:17,390
and we're going to
eat, and they're

620
00:39:17,390 --> 00:39:21,255
charging us money for that?

621
00:39:21,255 --> 00:39:27,590
I mean, the whole
boomerang just blew up.

622
00:39:27,590 --> 00:39:32,270
And they said no cross for us.

623
00:39:32,270 --> 00:39:36,030
So you started to
realize what the reality?

624

00:39:36,030 --> 00:39:41,270

We left the-- none of
us had a penny to us.

625

00:39:41,270 --> 00:39:45,290

And how did you feel about
the future then at that point,

626

00:39:45,290 --> 00:39:47,030

about your future in
the United States?

627

00:39:47,030 --> 00:39:54,890

Oh, we got-- from there,
we were put on a train.

628

00:39:54,890 --> 00:39:58,910

Some who lived in New
Jersey State, New Jersey,

629

00:39:58,910 --> 00:40:01,100

went to their hospitals.

630

00:40:01,100 --> 00:40:06,320

And then, like a few
us from California,

631

00:40:06,320 --> 00:40:10,440

they put us on a train
to head for California.

632

00:40:10,440 --> 00:40:12,920

And how long was that
journey back to California?

633

00:40:12,920 --> 00:40:15,590

634

00:40:15,590 --> 00:40:21,810

It turned out to be
almost a matter of a week

635

00:40:21,810 --> 00:40:23,520

before we got back to--

636
00:40:23,520 --> 00:40:25,700
we got to Camp Beale.

637
00:40:25,700 --> 00:40:27,310
And where is Camp Beale?

638
00:40:27,310 --> 00:40:29,430
Camp Beale, it's California.

639
00:40:29,430 --> 00:40:31,860
It's an Air Force base.

640
00:40:31,860 --> 00:40:34,980
And we stayed there for a day.

641
00:40:34,980 --> 00:40:39,900
Then we headed for Santa
Barbara where we didn't know,

642
00:40:39,900 --> 00:40:46,920
but it was a recovery
center for all POWs.

643
00:40:46,920 --> 00:40:55,920
It had like the motels, hotels.

644
00:40:55,920 --> 00:41:05,010
And each hotel had
the lobbies were

645
00:41:05,010 --> 00:41:08,160
refrigerators full of food.

646
00:41:08,160 --> 00:41:13,230
And they said you
can raid the icebox.

647
00:41:13,230 --> 00:41:17,400
Do what you want and
eat what you want.

648
00:41:17,400 --> 00:41:19,385
And how did you feel
after everything

649
00:41:19,385 --> 00:41:20,260
you had been through?

650
00:41:20,260 --> 00:41:21,810
Well, we felt great.

651
00:41:21,810 --> 00:41:24,870

652
00:41:24,870 --> 00:41:28,670
And then, when you
slept in the hotel,

653
00:41:28,670 --> 00:41:31,470
they said don't touch the beds.

654
00:41:31,470 --> 00:41:34,350
You don't have to do the beds.

655
00:41:34,350 --> 00:41:39,710
So just sleep, rest, and relax.

656
00:41:39,710 --> 00:41:41,578
And what was your
physical condition

657
00:41:41,578 --> 00:41:43,620
by that time, by the time
you reached California?

658
00:41:43,620 --> 00:41:48,600
Well, you started to
feel more at ease.

659
00:41:48,600 --> 00:41:57,600
And you get lectures
from psychiatrists

660
00:41:57,600 --> 00:41:59,900
because of the conditions.

661
00:41:59,900 --> 00:42:08,790
Yet, amazingly, in
those days, nothing

662
00:42:08,790 --> 00:42:11,250
was known about what
was a trauma, what

663
00:42:11,250 --> 00:42:21,810
was the side effects, the dreams
that you get, almost stumbling

664
00:42:21,810 --> 00:42:28,710
when you're asleep, yelling
and screaming, crying.

665
00:42:28,710 --> 00:42:30,880
So it was post-traumatic stress?

666
00:42:30,880 --> 00:42:33,240
Yeah, and, yet, we
didn't know that was it

667
00:42:33,240 --> 00:42:35,690
because no one spoke about it.

668
00:42:35,690 --> 00:42:39,490
And what did the psychiatrists
tell you in their lectures?

669
00:42:39,490 --> 00:42:45,010
Well, I remember
that the time we--

670
00:42:45,010 --> 00:42:46,200
we were there for a while.

671
00:42:46,200 --> 00:42:50,230

672
00:42:50,230 --> 00:42:51,690
We received the lectures.

673
00:42:51,690 --> 00:42:54,420
They said you
fellows are getting

674
00:42:54,420 --> 00:43:02,700
a 90-day resting period.

675
00:43:02,700 --> 00:43:06,780

676
00:43:06,780 --> 00:43:12,520
And you must-- you
must not go to work.

677
00:43:12,520 --> 00:43:16,980
You must not get married.

678
00:43:16,980 --> 00:43:19,650
You must not go to school yet.

679
00:43:19,650 --> 00:43:20,520
Don't do this.

680
00:43:20,520 --> 00:43:21,370
Don't do this.

681
00:43:21,370 --> 00:43:23,430
Don't do that.

682
00:43:23,430 --> 00:43:26,550
Well, we did everything that
we were supposed to do--

683
00:43:26,550 --> 00:43:29,990
we weren't supposed to do.

684

00:43:29,990 --> 00:43:34,910

I remember that, when I
received those 90 says,

685

00:43:34,910 --> 00:43:38,800

I said, well, I think
I'll go see my parents.

686

00:43:38,800 --> 00:43:44,370

And, as I recall,
I was on my way

687

00:43:44,370 --> 00:43:46,340

to Mexico to see my parents.

688

00:43:46,340 --> 00:43:47,850

Your parents were
still in Mexico?

689

00:43:47,850 --> 00:43:48,350

Yes.

690

00:43:48,350 --> 00:43:53,320

691

00:43:53,320 --> 00:44:00,370

And I got to El Paso,
and I went to the--

692

00:44:00,370 --> 00:44:00,950

Juarez?

693

00:44:00,950 --> 00:44:05,650

--surplus store there
in El Paso to buy me

694

00:44:05,650 --> 00:44:11,485

some paraphernalia just
take as a souvenir.

695

00:44:11,485 --> 00:44:15,140

696

00:44:15,140 --> 00:44:19,150

And I-- someone
got behind my back

697

00:44:19,150 --> 00:44:26,930

and put his hands over
my eyes to hide to see

698

00:44:26,930 --> 00:44:29,230

who was doing that to me.

699

00:44:29,230 --> 00:44:31,120

And he turned me
around, spun me around.

700

00:44:31,120 --> 00:44:36,000

And then he says, you
don't remember me?

701

00:44:36,000 --> 00:44:37,800

And I said, oh my God.

702

00:44:37,800 --> 00:44:42,790

I said General Elpidio
Gabriel Velazquez

703

00:44:42,790 --> 00:44:47,500

who was the governor of
the state of Durango, which

704

00:44:47,500 --> 00:44:49,260

my father was his--

705

00:44:49,260 --> 00:44:51,130

my father was his assistant.

706

00:44:51,130 --> 00:44:54,280

So was this a coincidence
that he was there?

707

00:44:54,280 --> 00:44:56,430

I wasn't expecting him.

708
00:44:56,430 --> 00:44:58,030
So he greeted you?

709
00:44:58,030 --> 00:45:00,020
He was there to meet you?

710
00:45:00,020 --> 00:45:04,810
By surprise, he caught
me with these reporters

711
00:45:04,810 --> 00:45:10,510
because he was on
a tour in Mexico.

712
00:45:10,510 --> 00:45:13,410
It was in Juarez, but he
happened to be in El Paso,

713
00:45:13,410 --> 00:45:17,380
crossing over, buying
some souvenirs.

714
00:45:17,380 --> 00:45:20,250
And he did this.

715
00:45:20,250 --> 00:45:23,560
And he said to the
reporters make a note of it,

716
00:45:23,560 --> 00:45:27,490
the son of an engineer--
and Francisco Acevedo is

717
00:45:27,490 --> 00:45:29,370
my father--

718
00:45:29,370 --> 00:45:38,720
touring with us for the new
to come president of Mexico,

719
00:45:38,720 --> 00:45:42,770

which would have been
Aleman back then in '45.

720
00:45:42,770 --> 00:45:47,480
OK, and did he know that
you were a prisoner of war?

721
00:45:47,480 --> 00:45:47,980
Yes.

722
00:45:47,980 --> 00:45:48,520
He knew.

723
00:45:48,520 --> 00:45:52,410
Yes, because he
received a letter.

724
00:45:52,410 --> 00:45:57,540
Or I received a letter from
him when he recommended me

725
00:45:57,540 --> 00:46:03,170
a good-standing citizen
before I was drafted back

726
00:46:03,170 --> 00:46:04,340
to the United States.

727
00:46:04,340 --> 00:46:07,815
OK, so he knew of
your war experiences

728
00:46:07,815 --> 00:46:09,190
and that you had
been imprisoned.

729
00:46:09,190 --> 00:46:18,760
So I said goodbye, and I took
the train the following day,

730
00:46:18,760 --> 00:46:21,730
got the train in Juarez.

731

00:46:21,730 --> 00:46:27,670

And I dressed in my uniform.

732

00:46:27,670 --> 00:46:33,700

And then I got to the
coach and sat down.

733

00:46:33,700 --> 00:46:36,700

And there were very few people.

734

00:46:36,700 --> 00:46:43,005

And, just as the train
started to move, oh,

735

00:46:43,005 --> 00:46:46,480

and it got to about 30
kilometers inland, then

736

00:46:46,480 --> 00:46:49,870

they ask you for
your identification.

737

00:46:49,870 --> 00:46:53,980

And so I told him--

738

00:46:53,980 --> 00:46:56,950

I said my identification
is my uniform.

739

00:46:56,950 --> 00:46:58,060

Isn't that enough?

740

00:46:58,060 --> 00:47:01,174

That's the passport, isn't it?

741

00:47:01,174 --> 00:47:04,030

I'm a citizen of
the United States.

742

00:47:04,030 --> 00:47:05,930

So he says, well--

743

00:47:05,930 --> 00:47:09,250

I said, but, if you
have any problems,

744

00:47:09,250 --> 00:47:12,380

I understand that Mr.
Elpidio Gabriel Velazquez

745

00:47:12,380 --> 00:47:15,130

is in this train,
and he told me that,

746

00:47:15,130 --> 00:47:19,120

if I had any problems,
to approach him.

747

00:47:19,120 --> 00:47:23,280

So he made a turn
about, went inside,

748

00:47:23,280 --> 00:47:25,120

and came back 45 minutes later.

749

00:47:25,120 --> 00:47:28,180

And he says the train is yours.

750

00:47:28,180 --> 00:47:29,570

You're welcome to the train.

751

00:47:29,570 --> 00:47:31,030

He said you don't need no ID.

752

00:47:31,030 --> 00:47:33,510

And how did that make you feel
after everything you had--

753

00:47:33,510 --> 00:47:36,200

Well, it made me feel good.

754

00:47:36,200 --> 00:47:38,740

I had no tension.

755

00:47:38,740 --> 00:47:42,250

So that started a good point.

756

00:47:42,250 --> 00:47:46,240

But then, at that time,
some of other people that

757

00:47:46,240 --> 00:47:53,890

were in the train I met by--

758

00:47:53,890 --> 00:47:56,420

they wanted to be amiable.

759

00:47:56,420 --> 00:48:04,120

So that's where I met
my first wife, which

760

00:48:04,120 --> 00:48:05,990

was the mother of Fernando.

761

00:48:05,990 --> 00:48:06,510

Of Fernando.

762

00:48:06,510 --> 00:48:07,540

And what was her name?

763

00:48:07,540 --> 00:48:10,809

764

00:48:10,809 --> 00:48:12,040

Amparo.

765

00:48:12,040 --> 00:48:13,040

Amparo.

766

00:48:13,040 --> 00:48:13,540

Amparo.

767

00:48:13,540 --> 00:48:19,465

768

00:48:19,465 --> 00:48:22,060

But it was a coincidence
to be in the train

769

00:48:22,060 --> 00:48:26,440

because she was the neighbor of
a friend that was at prisoner

770

00:48:26,440 --> 00:48:30,530

of war camp with me.

771

00:48:30,530 --> 00:48:33,280

And the fact that he lived--

772

00:48:33,280 --> 00:48:35,300

they were neighbors.

773

00:48:35,300 --> 00:48:37,820

So did she know-- had she
ever heard about you before?

774

00:48:37,820 --> 00:48:38,320

No.

775

00:48:38,320 --> 00:48:38,750

No.

776

00:48:38,750 --> 00:48:38,940

No.

777

00:48:38,940 --> 00:48:39,550

OK.

778

00:48:39,550 --> 00:48:40,550

Nothing, by coincidence.

779

00:48:40,550 --> 00:48:41,830

So it was pure coincidence.

780

00:48:41,830 --> 00:48:43,950

She was renting a room--

781
00:48:43,950 --> 00:48:49,800
the garage space to
put store her furniture

782
00:48:49,800 --> 00:48:52,940
because she was going to get
married with somebody else.

783
00:48:52,940 --> 00:48:56,830
Oh, and how old were
you at this time?

784
00:48:56,830 --> 00:48:58,850
I was 20 years old then.

785
00:48:58,850 --> 00:48:59,800
And how old was she?

786
00:48:59,800 --> 00:49:04,160

787
00:49:04,160 --> 00:49:06,350
19.

788
00:49:06,350 --> 00:49:12,390
So then the funny thing
is that, at that moment,

789
00:49:12,390 --> 00:49:13,880
I just said goodbye.

790
00:49:13,880 --> 00:49:15,890
We split trains.

791
00:49:15,890 --> 00:49:23,870
And I had her address because of
my friend, but nothing to say--

792
00:49:23,870 --> 00:49:31,520
to stipulate a friendship to
get going as a girlfriend.

793
00:49:31,520 --> 00:49:35,600
So then I let it go by.

794
00:49:35,600 --> 00:49:38,350
So I got to Mexico
or to Durango.

795
00:49:38,350 --> 00:49:42,170
And I was on my way to
Durango to see my parents.

796
00:49:42,170 --> 00:49:46,430
And then I would leave Durango
and go to Leon, Guanajuato

797
00:49:46,430 --> 00:49:52,290
to meet with the girl that
I was supposed to marry,

798
00:49:52,290 --> 00:49:53,620
which I'm with now.

799
00:49:53,620 --> 00:49:56,600

800
00:49:56,600 --> 00:49:57,870
And she's in your diary.

801
00:49:57,870 --> 00:50:00,690
She's the one that's
in bad condition.

802
00:50:00,690 --> 00:50:02,190
Yeah.

803
00:50:02,190 --> 00:50:06,520
So then I was
visiting my parents,

804
00:50:06,520 --> 00:50:11,050
and I get the remark

from my father.

805

00:50:11,050 --> 00:50:16,920

How-- when you reached home,
when you reached your parents,

806

00:50:16,920 --> 00:50:20,430

they were living in Durango.

807

00:50:20,430 --> 00:50:24,290

Describe-- did they come
for you at the station?

808

00:50:24,290 --> 00:50:26,880

Did you go to the
home on your own?

809

00:50:26,880 --> 00:50:33,375

No, I got off the train,
and nobody received me.

810

00:50:33,375 --> 00:50:38,590

I just got off the
train and got a taxicab

811

00:50:38,590 --> 00:50:44,880

and went to the house,
and I surprised them.

812

00:50:44,880 --> 00:50:47,870

813

00:50:47,870 --> 00:50:53,480

And, when they received
me, everything went OK.

814

00:50:53,480 --> 00:50:56,040

815

00:50:56,040 --> 00:50:57,860

What does your mother say?

816

00:50:57,860 --> 00:51:01,020

My mother was crying
because I was finally

817

00:51:01,020 --> 00:51:05,730

freed after what she
had received when

818

00:51:05,730 --> 00:51:08,190

I was a prisoner that my aunt--

819

00:51:08,190 --> 00:51:09,830

That you were missing.

820

00:51:09,830 --> 00:51:12,540

--that I had been a prisoner.

821

00:51:12,540 --> 00:51:15,300

And she got sick.

822

00:51:15,300 --> 00:51:19,200

So she was sick
for all the time.

823

00:51:19,200 --> 00:51:24,240

Did they know-- before
you reached home, did

824

00:51:24,240 --> 00:51:25,545

they know that you were alive?

825

00:51:25,545 --> 00:51:28,140

826

00:51:28,140 --> 00:51:30,150

Had they received any news?

827

00:51:30,150 --> 00:51:35,160

When I-- I called them
by phone that I was alive

828

00:51:35,160 --> 00:51:38,040

and that I was
recovering and all that.

829
00:51:38,040 --> 00:51:41,580
And they asked me when I
was coming to visit them.

830
00:51:41,580 --> 00:51:44,890
So then I told them
I was coming over.

831
00:51:44,890 --> 00:51:48,000
So, when I got to
Durango, then they

832
00:51:48,000 --> 00:51:54,390
were happy to see me and
my brothers and all that.

833
00:51:54,390 --> 00:51:57,910
And they were still young.

834
00:51:57,910 --> 00:51:58,410
And--

835
00:51:58,410 --> 00:52:02,580

836
00:52:02,580 --> 00:52:04,680
What about your father?

837
00:52:04,680 --> 00:52:09,250
Well, we sat at the
table and everything.

838
00:52:09,250 --> 00:52:14,790
We made a big salutation
with a bottle of--

839
00:52:14,790 --> 00:52:23,730
a glass of cognac or champagne,
[INAUDIBLE] And then,

840

00:52:23,730 --> 00:52:29,450

in front of all, he
asked me, what made

841

00:52:29,450 --> 00:52:31,405

you cowardly to be captured?

842

00:52:31,405 --> 00:52:35,102

843

00:52:35,102 --> 00:52:40,850

I mean, only cowards let
themselves be captured.

844

00:52:40,850 --> 00:52:45,320

And all of them
just made a remark.

845

00:52:45,320 --> 00:52:46,250

Against him?

846

00:52:46,250 --> 00:52:46,970

Against him.

847

00:52:46,970 --> 00:52:51,870

And they said why did
you have to say that.

848

00:52:51,870 --> 00:52:56,980

And I got up from the table.

849

00:52:56,980 --> 00:53:00,020

I excused myself.

850

00:53:00,020 --> 00:53:07,780

And I packed my luggage
and said, mama, my mother--

851

00:53:07,780 --> 00:53:09,600

she was my stepmother,
but I loved her

852

00:53:09,600 --> 00:53:13,920

because she was more
like a mother to me.

853

00:53:13,920 --> 00:53:22,290

And I said, mama, excuse
me, but I want to leave.

854

00:53:22,290 --> 00:53:25,135

And I don't want to
see my father again.

855

00:53:25,135 --> 00:53:27,180

And did he ever apologize?

856

00:53:27,180 --> 00:53:29,690

For seven years,
I didn't see him.

857

00:53:29,690 --> 00:53:30,450

For seven.

858

00:53:30,450 --> 00:53:32,352

And where did you--

859

00:53:32,352 --> 00:53:33,060

where did you do?

860

00:53:33,060 --> 00:53:38,220

When I received his apology
was when he was dying.

861

00:53:38,220 --> 00:53:42,010

And how long after was that?

862

00:53:42,010 --> 00:53:44,400

When did your father die?

863

00:53:44,400 --> 00:53:50,335

My father died in '87.

864

00:53:50,335 --> 00:53:52,840

865

00:53:52,840 --> 00:53:56,710

So it took over 40
years for him to--

866

00:53:56,710 --> 00:53:59,780

He never apologized
to me until then.

867

00:53:59,780 --> 00:54:02,772

So where did you go then
when you told your mother

868

00:54:02,772 --> 00:54:03,480

you were leaving?

869

00:54:03,480 --> 00:54:06,895

When I left, I left--

870

00:54:06,895 --> 00:54:09,820

871

00:54:09,820 --> 00:54:14,130

I left Durango, and I came
back to the United States.

872

00:54:14,130 --> 00:54:19,540

I was transferred from
the recuperation center

873

00:54:19,540 --> 00:54:26,450
in Santa Barbara to the original
hospital in Pasadena, which

874

00:54:26,450 --> 00:54:31,600
was then the Constance Hotel.

875

00:54:31,600 --> 00:54:37,510
And I was an eye, ear, nose, and
throat assistant to the doctor.

876

00:54:37,510 --> 00:54:40,120

And I worked there
until I was discharged

877

00:54:40,120 --> 00:54:42,524

on December 10 of '45.

878

00:54:42,524 --> 00:54:43,370

Of '45.

879

00:54:43,370 --> 00:54:47,530

And did you--
describe going back

880

00:54:47,530 --> 00:54:51,220

to the United-- coming back into
the United States from Durango.

881

00:54:51,220 --> 00:54:55,130

Was that a difficult process?

882

00:54:55,130 --> 00:54:58,000

Was it fairly easy to come
back into the United States

883

00:54:58,000 --> 00:54:59,660

from Durango?

884

00:54:59,660 --> 00:55:02,200

Oh, it was easy to
come back, and it

885

00:55:02,200 --> 00:55:06,520

was nice to be
back here because I

886

00:55:06,520 --> 00:55:10,870

felt like because I had my
whole family here on this side.

887

00:55:10,870 --> 00:55:14,570

And how did your family on this

side of the border treat you?

888

00:55:14,570 --> 00:55:17,470

Much, much wonderful.

889

00:55:17,470 --> 00:55:20,730

Even though they were
half cousins and half

890

00:55:20,730 --> 00:55:23,600

aunts and half everything,
but, to me, they were full.

891

00:55:23,600 --> 00:55:26,200

892

00:55:26,200 --> 00:55:31,116

And did you say anything to them
about any of your experiences?

893

00:55:31,116 --> 00:55:32,030

Oh they felt bad.

894

00:55:32,030 --> 00:55:33,670

They felt very bad.

895

00:55:33,670 --> 00:55:44,070

And, yet, how was I to know
yet the traumas would go back,

896

00:55:44,070 --> 00:55:53,890

that I still had that stigma
in me to go back to Durango

897

00:55:53,890 --> 00:55:57,220

and tell my mother and,
yet, see my father,

898

00:55:57,220 --> 00:56:02,090

face him again, after I told him
I don't want to see him again,

899

00:56:02,090 --> 00:56:09,070
that I was going to get married
to the girl I met on the train

900
00:56:09,070 --> 00:56:11,110
without even seeing the
girl that I was going

901
00:56:11,110 --> 00:56:14,530
to marry in Leon, Guanajuato?

902
00:56:14,530 --> 00:56:18,490
So you had two people in mind.

903
00:56:18,490 --> 00:56:21,480

904
00:56:21,480 --> 00:56:23,050
And how did you feel?

905
00:56:23,050 --> 00:56:26,310

906
00:56:26,310 --> 00:56:29,050
Your parents before-- and
we're going back now to

907
00:56:29,050 --> 00:56:32,350
before the war.

908
00:56:32,350 --> 00:56:35,210
Your parents were
sent back to Mexico.

909
00:56:35,210 --> 00:56:38,350
They had to go back.

910
00:56:38,350 --> 00:56:43,090
And you were encouraged
that, as an American citizen,

911
00:56:43,090 --> 00:56:48,820

born in the United States, that
you had to serve in the Army.

912
00:56:48,820 --> 00:56:52,220
And you go through everything
that you went through,

913
00:56:52,220 --> 00:56:58,090
and then you have your
father turn his back on you

914
00:56:58,090 --> 00:56:59,110
and call you a coward.

915
00:56:59,110 --> 00:57:02,680
And how did you feel
about everything?

916
00:57:02,680 --> 00:57:05,650
You had gone through this
experience in the POW camp,

917
00:57:05,650 --> 00:57:07,840
and then you were in Berga.

918
00:57:07,840 --> 00:57:10,090
And it was your
father who encouraged

919
00:57:10,090 --> 00:57:11,620
you to go back to
the United States

920
00:57:11,620 --> 00:57:13,390
and to serve in the Army.

921
00:57:13,390 --> 00:57:17,668
So how are you feeling at
this point about everything

922
00:57:17,668 --> 00:57:18,710
that you've gone through?

923

00:57:18,710 --> 00:57:21,510

924

00:57:21,510 --> 00:57:25,950

I put a blank in front of me.

925

00:57:25,950 --> 00:57:30,660

I decided not to
let that bother me

926

00:57:30,660 --> 00:57:37,620

because I had other conflicts
that was disturbing me,

927

00:57:37,620 --> 00:57:39,960

and that was the
emotions and the stress,

928

00:57:39,960 --> 00:57:44,070

what I went through
when I was a POW.

929

00:57:44,070 --> 00:57:47,730

And then what hit me
worse, afterwards, I

930

00:57:47,730 --> 00:57:55,080

kept that stigma that he said
to me that I was a coward.

931

00:57:55,080 --> 00:58:00,205

I kept that behind me,
and I couldn't get it out.

932

00:58:00,205 --> 00:58:05,250

And how did you deal with
that for the rest of--

933

00:58:05,250 --> 00:58:10,290

Yeah, it still bothers
me because you never

934

00:58:10,290 --> 00:58:12,440

see a father tell
that to his son

935

00:58:12,440 --> 00:58:16,440

unless he feels like he
was proud of anything.

936

00:58:16,440 --> 00:58:24,570

937

00:58:24,570 --> 00:58:27,000

And how did your friends--

938

00:58:27,000 --> 00:58:29,400

your old friends who
you knew back in school

939

00:58:29,400 --> 00:58:33,480

and in California, did you see
them again after you returned?

940

00:58:33,480 --> 00:58:34,860

And how did they treat you?

941

00:58:34,860 --> 00:58:38,430

942

00:58:38,430 --> 00:58:44,330

Yeah, I received my friends,
and they treated me very well.

943

00:58:44,330 --> 00:58:51,840

And the conditions were
very mutual, mutually,

944

00:58:51,840 --> 00:58:57,420

totally, completely different,
not like when I told my father.

945

00:58:57,420 --> 00:58:59,535

I says, why do you call
this being a coward?

946
00:58:59,535 --> 00:59:02,090

947
00:59:02,090 --> 00:59:03,960
But I'll tell you one thing.

948
00:59:03,960 --> 00:59:07,790
What makes a person is that--

949
00:59:07,790 --> 00:59:09,510
because he would
tell me about Pancho

950
00:59:09,510 --> 00:59:13,970
Villa and the big, tall heroes.

951
00:59:13,970 --> 00:59:15,480
I says you know what?

952
00:59:15,480 --> 00:59:21,320
That powder that
they burned in Mexico

953
00:59:21,320 --> 00:59:26,240
is no comparison to the
powder of a woman's powder

954
00:59:26,240 --> 00:59:30,510
that she puts on her
face because our powder

955
00:59:30,510 --> 00:59:35,940
in our weapons can burn
up your heart before you

956
00:59:35,940 --> 00:59:38,520
can say a word.

957
00:59:38,520 --> 00:59:40,500
That's what I told him.

958

00:59:40,500 --> 00:59:42,300

We need to pause, please.

959

00:59:42,300 --> 00:59:43,850

OK.