

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,605

2

00:00:00,605 --> 00:00:01,230

We are rolling.

3

00:00:01,230 --> 00:00:01,890

We are rolling.

4

00:00:01,890 --> 00:00:05,040

This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

5

00:00:05,040 --> 00:00:10,860

Memorial Museum interview with
Mr. Ernest Dutcher on February

6

00:00:10,860 --> 00:00:14,970

19, 2013 in Encino, California.

7

00:00:14,970 --> 00:00:18,600

And Mr. Dutcher, we wanted
to follow up on a few things

8

00:00:18,600 --> 00:00:20,920

that we talked about earlier--

9

00:00:20,920 --> 00:00:25,920

just one of them, that one
question about your transport

10

00:00:25,920 --> 00:00:28,030

of survivors.

11

00:00:28,030 --> 00:00:30,750

Did you ever meet
any of these people

12

00:00:30,750 --> 00:00:34,740

who had been on the plane with
you or any of the other planes

13
00:00:34,740 --> 00:00:37,110
that took them out
from Germany to France

14
00:00:37,110 --> 00:00:38,830
for medical attention?

15
00:00:38,830 --> 00:00:40,380
Unfortunately, no.

16
00:00:40,380 --> 00:00:41,070
You never did.

17
00:00:41,070 --> 00:00:41,640
No.

18
00:00:41,640 --> 00:00:42,510
No.

19
00:00:42,510 --> 00:00:44,700
And you never came
across anybody's story

20
00:00:44,700 --> 00:00:47,550
who said that they had
been on such a plane,

21
00:00:47,550 --> 00:00:50,172
whether they wrote about
it, or it was filmed,

22
00:00:50,172 --> 00:00:50,880
or anything like.

23
00:00:50,880 --> 00:00:51,588
That's the thing.

24
00:00:51,588 --> 00:00:54,300
It was the 90th Air Force.

25

00:00:54,300 --> 00:00:56,820

It was just forgotten
about, apparently.

26

00:00:56,820 --> 00:01:03,700

And none of the things
were ever publicized a lot.

27

00:01:03,700 --> 00:01:05,500

OK.

28

00:01:05,500 --> 00:01:09,865

Now let's step back and
talk in more detail about--

29

00:01:09,865 --> 00:01:13,930

you mentioned Douglas
Fairbanks, Jr. and his role.

30

00:01:13,930 --> 00:01:17,950

And we started to talk
about that a little bit.

31

00:01:17,950 --> 00:01:21,745

But explain exactly where
in the picture he fit.

32

00:01:21,745 --> 00:01:25,060

When you were explaining
to us about the squadrons,

33

00:01:25,060 --> 00:01:27,670

and the wings, and the--

34

00:01:27,670 --> 00:01:32,140

what was his-- not
just his rank--

35

00:01:32,140 --> 00:01:34,510

but what was his job?

36

00:01:34,510 --> 00:01:38,500

His job was to

mislead the Germans

37

00:01:38,500 --> 00:01:42,780
into where we were going to
land at almost every landing.

38

00:01:42,780 --> 00:01:49,070
His job, at the specific
southern France invasion,

39

00:01:49,070 --> 00:01:54,380
was to use about 10 of his
12 PT boats in the squadron.

40

00:01:54,380 --> 00:01:58,940
They were equipped with
very powerful amplifiers

41

00:01:58,940 --> 00:02:00,560
and loud speakers.

42

00:02:00,560 --> 00:02:06,370
And he would race along
the shore at about 40 knots

43

00:02:06,370 --> 00:02:07,550
or 50 miles an hour--

44

00:02:07,550 --> 00:02:09,199
so very fast in the water.

45

00:02:09,199 --> 00:02:12,410
And they would turn
on these things

46

00:02:12,410 --> 00:02:16,520
as if there were 10,000
boats out there--

47

00:02:16,520 --> 00:02:19,160
very, very loud
and very deceiving.

48

00:02:19,160 --> 00:02:23,540

At the same time, he'd have
a plane flying and dropping

49

00:02:23,540 --> 00:02:25,100

what they call a window.

50

00:02:25,100 --> 00:02:25,850

And what's that?

51

00:02:25,850 --> 00:02:30,010

A window is strips of tin foil.

52

00:02:30,010 --> 00:02:33,910

And the strips of
tin foil would look

53

00:02:33,910 --> 00:02:39,070

on the German radar like a whole
big fleet of airplanes coming.

54

00:02:39,070 --> 00:02:44,650

And they were all headed
for this fake landing

55

00:02:44,650 --> 00:02:46,690

site he had designed.

56

00:02:46,690 --> 00:02:51,985

He also designed rubber
paratroopers of different sizes

57

00:02:51,985 --> 00:02:54,280

to make it look like
there are a of them.

58

00:02:54,280 --> 00:02:55,720

They were inflatable.

59

00:02:55,720 --> 00:02:59,890

And then they dropped those
from the planes at some point--

60
00:02:59,890 --> 00:03:02,450
that looked like there is the
place they're going to be.

61
00:03:02,450 --> 00:03:04,930
So the Germans would move
all their reinforcements

62
00:03:04,930 --> 00:03:10,180
over there, which then, of
course, made the real invasion

63
00:03:10,180 --> 00:03:13,300
point much safer for
the planes coming in,

64
00:03:13,300 --> 00:03:16,630
especially planes like
C-47s that had did not have

65
00:03:16,630 --> 00:03:20,410
an ounce of firepower on it.

66
00:03:20,410 --> 00:03:22,810
It was very vulnerable.

67
00:03:22,810 --> 00:03:26,560
So did this happen
simultaneously as the Normandy

68
00:03:26,560 --> 00:03:29,380
invasion or just prior?

69
00:03:29,380 --> 00:03:30,490
No.

70
00:03:30,490 --> 00:03:34,940
This happened in August of
the same year as the invasion.

71
00:03:34,940 --> 00:03:39,430

We moved down to southern--

72

00:03:39,430 --> 00:03:44,920

we were stationed in a wheat
field in the middle of Italy

73

00:03:44,920 --> 00:03:49,180

called Canino Air Base.

74

00:03:49,180 --> 00:03:52,820

And from there, we did
our training and so forth.

75

00:03:52,820 --> 00:03:57,280

And then I was picked out
from the four radar officers

76

00:03:57,280 --> 00:04:01,570

of our 430th Group
to be the one to go

77

00:04:01,570 --> 00:04:04,090

on detached service
for the Navy.

78

00:04:04,090 --> 00:04:06,070

That was a Navy operation.

79

00:04:06,070 --> 00:04:09,910

So I was then broke
away from the group

80

00:04:09,910 --> 00:04:12,700

and moved down-- or broke
away from our squadron--

81

00:04:12,700 --> 00:04:14,890

and moved down to Corsica.

82

00:04:14,890 --> 00:04:21,490

And in Corsica, there was
a harbor for these boats.

83

00:04:21,490 --> 00:04:25,120

And adjacent to the harbor were
their living quarters, and mess

84

00:04:25,120 --> 00:04:27,220

halls, and so forth.

85

00:04:27,220 --> 00:04:37,680

And I lived like a Navy
person at that time and very

86

00:04:37,680 --> 00:04:39,750

graciously entertained.

87

00:04:39,750 --> 00:04:44,650

I was kind of the top
person there for a while,

88

00:04:44,650 --> 00:04:48,760

because I was the one they
picked to put the marker

89

00:04:48,760 --> 00:04:50,590

beacon in the middle
of the Mediterranean

90

00:04:50,590 --> 00:04:57,537

so that the final turn of the
aircraft for the paratroopers

91

00:04:57,537 --> 00:04:58,870

first and then followed by the--

92

00:04:58,870 --> 00:05:00,350

The rubber paratroopers.

93

00:05:00,350 --> 00:05:00,850

Huh?

94

00:05:00,850 --> 00:05:02,020

The rubber paratroopers.

95

00:05:02,020 --> 00:05:05,120

No, no, this was the real
thing, the real thing.

96

00:05:05,120 --> 00:05:07,310

The reasons for me
being there was the fact

97

00:05:07,310 --> 00:05:08,890

I had to man that light.

98

00:05:08,890 --> 00:05:11,100

And we did it on a PT boat.

99

00:05:11,100 --> 00:05:15,910

But the fake paratroopers
was his design.

100

00:05:15,910 --> 00:05:22,840

And far from being
a playboy, this guy

101

00:05:22,840 --> 00:05:26,440

was valuable, so
valuable, in fact,

102

00:05:26,440 --> 00:05:30,400

that all of our participation
had to be sworn secret.

103

00:05:30,400 --> 00:05:34,460

We couldn't discuss it
with our own family.

104

00:05:34,460 --> 00:05:39,670

You couldn't discuss
it with your bunk mate.

105

00:05:39,670 --> 00:05:44,490

All that secrecy was not lifted
until after the Vietnam War.

106

00:05:44,490 --> 00:05:46,850

That's why nothing has
been printed about it.

107

00:05:46,850 --> 00:05:49,370

And as far as I know, I'm
the only living person

108

00:05:49,370 --> 00:05:52,190

that has the knowledge
of what went on.

109

00:05:52,190 --> 00:05:54,060

Did you meet Douglas
Fairbanks, Jr?

110

00:05:54,060 --> 00:05:54,560

Pardon?

111

00:05:54,560 --> 00:05:56,095

Did you meet him,
Douglas Fairbanks?

112

00:05:56,095 --> 00:05:56,720

Oh, absolutely.

113

00:05:56,720 --> 00:06:00,245

I had lunch-- we had
the same mess hall.

114

00:06:00,245 --> 00:06:06,110

He was a very self-deprecating
person, a very nice person.

115

00:06:06,110 --> 00:06:08,540

And it was his
thoughts, his ideas

116

00:06:08,540 --> 00:06:13,360

for these types of diversionary
and misleading tactics.

117

00:06:13,360 --> 00:06:19,860

Yeah, he got his start with
Mountbatten out of England.

118
00:06:19,860 --> 00:06:22,400
And he got his
commission out of England

119
00:06:22,400 --> 00:06:24,410
and then eventually
was transferred

120
00:06:24,410 --> 00:06:26,150
to a Navy commission.

121
00:06:26,150 --> 00:06:32,280
And there, he started
doing his dirty work.

122
00:06:32,280 --> 00:06:33,880
And would you say successfully?

123
00:06:33,880 --> 00:06:36,580
Very successful, yes, very.

124
00:06:36,580 --> 00:06:38,800
OK.

125
00:06:38,800 --> 00:06:40,990
Is there anything else to
that episode that you'd

126
00:06:40,990 --> 00:06:43,480
like to add about him?

127
00:06:43,480 --> 00:06:46,860

128
00:06:46,860 --> 00:06:49,530
I only saw him at the mess hall.

129
00:06:49,530 --> 00:06:51,405
That's the only time that--

130

00:06:51,405 --> 00:06:54,030
usually in the evening after we
got through with our maneuvers.

131

00:06:54,030 --> 00:06:59,330
And we went through
several weeks of training

132

00:06:59,330 --> 00:07:01,890
on the Mediterranean
at different points

133

00:07:01,890 --> 00:07:02,870
on the Mediterranean.

134

00:07:02,870 --> 00:07:07,680
And I was assigned two of the
PT boats that were heavily armed

135

00:07:07,680 --> 00:07:11,400
with 40-millimeter
anti-aircraft guns,

136

00:07:11,400 --> 00:07:14,940
and 20-millimeter
and twin-50 calibers,

137

00:07:14,940 --> 00:07:21,930
and about a half a dozen
depth charges for submarines--

138

00:07:21,930 --> 00:07:24,870
there were still
submarines in the area--

139

00:07:24,870 --> 00:07:29,610
and also about four torpedoes.

140

00:07:29,610 --> 00:07:35,020
This little 78-foot wooden
boat carried all those.

141

00:07:35,020 --> 00:07:37,660

And we practiced targets.

142

00:07:37,660 --> 00:07:39,850

We practiced
torpedoing the ship.

143

00:07:39,850 --> 00:07:43,090

And we'd go straight at
the ship at high speed

144

00:07:43,090 --> 00:07:46,360

and then make a hard left
and let the torpedo go

145

00:07:46,360 --> 00:07:47,920

before we made our turn.

146

00:07:47,920 --> 00:07:51,050

That way, we were hauled
away from the blast.

147

00:07:51,050 --> 00:07:52,600

Mm-hmm.

148

00:07:52,600 --> 00:07:58,120

Then at night, we
were very flexible.

149

00:07:58,120 --> 00:08:00,220

At night, we would pull
into a little canal

150

00:08:00,220 --> 00:08:03,960

where there was trees
and shrubbery over us.

151

00:08:03,960 --> 00:08:07,620

And we'd stay the night there.

152

00:08:07,620 --> 00:08:12,450

And about daybreak, we'd go

back out to our training.

153

00:08:12,450 --> 00:08:16,770

So that part have not
been documented yet.

154

00:08:16,770 --> 00:08:18,930

And that's what I'm
involved in trying

155

00:08:18,930 --> 00:08:21,030

to get pulled together for--

156

00:08:21,030 --> 00:08:23,090

I don't want to release
the whole thing yet,

157

00:08:23,090 --> 00:08:25,420

because the whole
thing is not here yet.

158

00:08:25,420 --> 00:08:25,920

Got it.

159

00:08:25,920 --> 00:08:28,350

Got it.

160

00:08:28,350 --> 00:08:30,690

You mentioned earlier,
also, that there

161

00:08:30,690 --> 00:08:36,659

had been these tragic and
senseless mistakes in England

162

00:08:36,659 --> 00:08:44,310

due to decisions made
by military leaders

163

00:08:44,310 --> 00:08:48,270

and also just the sheer
number of flights,

164

00:08:48,270 --> 00:08:52,380

that there were these accidents
that resulted in victims.

165

00:08:52,380 --> 00:08:55,650

Do you recall any
other such instances

166

00:08:55,650 --> 00:09:03,500

where there were these
sad events that happened?

167

00:09:03,500 --> 00:09:08,960

Well, the biggest one of all
was Operation Market Basket.

168

00:09:08,960 --> 00:09:16,230

Had that not been diverted
by General Montgomery selling

169

00:09:16,230 --> 00:09:20,450

the idea to Eisenhower--

170

00:09:20,450 --> 00:09:23,120

these are all our
opinions, not only mine

171

00:09:23,120 --> 00:09:25,610

but a lot of our people--

172

00:09:25,610 --> 00:09:30,680

that those tanks of
Patton could have

173

00:09:30,680 --> 00:09:35,240

been continuing on their
unobstructed drive to Germany.

174

00:09:35,240 --> 00:09:37,760

And it would save
one year of war.

175

00:09:37,760 --> 00:09:38,260
Yeah.

176
00:09:38,260 --> 00:09:39,650
That's the biggest of all.

177
00:09:39,650 --> 00:09:40,150
Yeah.

178
00:09:40,150 --> 00:09:43,440

179
00:09:43,440 --> 00:09:45,120
And that's because
the gasoline--

180
00:09:45,120 --> 00:09:47,140
you've said that the
gasoline was used.

181
00:09:47,140 --> 00:09:50,730
Yes, the old
Workhorse 47 when it

182
00:09:50,730 --> 00:09:54,880
was carrying-- we would
fly gasoline in and land

183
00:09:54,880 --> 00:09:58,320
that little pastures
or muddy fields,

184
00:09:58,320 --> 00:10:01,450
anywhere that there
was a space big enough

185
00:10:01,450 --> 00:10:03,870
the plane could roll out in.

186
00:10:03,870 --> 00:10:05,130
We would even help--

187

00:10:05,130 --> 00:10:07,770
when I say we, it's the
people aboard the plane.

188
00:10:07,770 --> 00:10:11,100
Because I had enough to
do at the base in England

189
00:10:11,100 --> 00:10:16,170
to keep the plane's
radar properly working.

190
00:10:16,170 --> 00:10:19,050
But they would help unload
the planes with the gasoline.

191
00:10:19,050 --> 00:10:24,330
And they carried about
6,000 pounds of gasoline.

192
00:10:24,330 --> 00:10:27,660
At 8 pounds per gallon,
you can calculate

193
00:10:27,660 --> 00:10:29,640
how many Jerry cans there were.

194
00:10:29,640 --> 00:10:30,210
Yeah.

195
00:10:30,210 --> 00:10:33,840
Anyway, they were the
standard Jerry cans laid

196
00:10:33,840 --> 00:10:36,450
inside the cabin on the floor.

197
00:10:36,450 --> 00:10:42,780
And they not only helped
unload those cans--

198
00:10:42,780 --> 00:10:46,350
and so the tanks

can be refueled--

199
00:10:46,350 --> 00:10:54,270
they far outran their
surface supply tanker trucks.

200
00:10:54,270 --> 00:10:56,700
They were going that fast.

201
00:10:56,700 --> 00:11:00,030
So we would unload
the gas cans and then

202
00:11:00,030 --> 00:11:02,740
load up the wounded, the
most seriously wounded,

203
00:11:02,740 --> 00:11:04,500
and bring them back
with the litters that

204
00:11:04,500 --> 00:11:07,350
came down from the
side inside the plane

205
00:11:07,350 --> 00:11:10,050
and flew them back to
hospitals in England.

206
00:11:10,050 --> 00:11:15,030
And then sometimes they made
two trips a day, each pilot.

207
00:11:15,030 --> 00:11:16,900
They were very tired.

208
00:11:16,900 --> 00:11:19,170
I can imagine.

209
00:11:19,170 --> 00:11:23,520
But I have no doubt,
myself, that the war would

210

00:11:23,520 --> 00:11:25,840
have ended one year earlier--

211

00:11:25,840 --> 00:11:28,740
at least a year or
maybe even sooner.

212

00:11:28,740 --> 00:11:31,287
Because keep in mind, all
this is compressed now.

213

00:11:31,287 --> 00:11:33,120
Everything we're talking
about is compressed

214

00:11:33,120 --> 00:11:35,610
into a two-year time frame.

215

00:11:35,610 --> 00:11:37,950
Yeah.

216

00:11:37,950 --> 00:11:41,610
What about civilian
casualties in England?

217

00:11:41,610 --> 00:11:43,020
Ooh, they were high.

218

00:11:43,020 --> 00:11:44,100
Were they?

219

00:11:44,100 --> 00:11:47,280
In my start of my book, I said--

220

00:11:47,280 --> 00:11:49,740
my book was going to be
entitled "I Was There."

221

00:11:49,740 --> 00:11:53,670
On the first chapter,
I describe the fact

222

00:11:53,670 --> 00:11:55,740
that I loved ice skating.

223

00:11:55,740 --> 00:11:58,830
I met my wife that way and
so forth before I left.

224

00:11:58,830 --> 00:12:00,510
I loved ice skating.

225

00:12:00,510 --> 00:12:03,870
And they had a nice
ice skating rink in one

226

00:12:03,870 --> 00:12:06,360
of the suburbs of London.

227

00:12:06,360 --> 00:12:09,510
So I used to go frequently.

228

00:12:09,510 --> 00:12:12,630
As often as we had
any sort of a pass,

229

00:12:12,630 --> 00:12:18,960
I'd take the train into
London and take the subway--

230

00:12:18,960 --> 00:12:24,810
the famed British subway
system, which was also their air

231

00:12:24,810 --> 00:12:26,640
raid shelters.

232

00:12:26,640 --> 00:12:31,320
I'd take it out to the rink,
which was, as I say, a suburb.

233

00:12:31,320 --> 00:12:34,380
And after that,
I would come back

234
00:12:34,380 --> 00:12:37,020
to the Red Cross
building, where,

235
00:12:37,020 --> 00:12:42,310
as soon as we heard the
sirens, everyone was supposed

236
00:12:42,310 --> 00:12:45,090
to dive for the shelters.

237
00:12:45,090 --> 00:12:47,670
We got to the
point where we were

238
00:12:47,670 --> 00:12:51,570
playing Russian Roulette, that
"it's not going to hit us"

239
00:12:51,570 --> 00:12:53,580
type of thing.

240
00:12:53,580 --> 00:12:57,600
And so when the
V2s come over, they

241
00:12:57,600 --> 00:13:03,360
were sort of a staccato
sound, very staccato.

242
00:13:03,360 --> 00:13:06,030
And when they stopped
being staccato

243
00:13:06,030 --> 00:13:07,380
is when we had to worry.

244
00:13:07,380 --> 00:13:10,500
Because then the power
had been cut off,

245

00:13:10,500 --> 00:13:15,930
and they just indiscriminately
fell into the heart of London.

246
00:13:15,930 --> 00:13:18,960
And of course, there was
thousands of British civilians

247
00:13:18,960 --> 00:13:21,450
killed during that time.

248
00:13:21,450 --> 00:13:23,015
I think they lost
many more civilians

249
00:13:23,015 --> 00:13:26,310
than they did soldiers.

250
00:13:26,310 --> 00:13:32,010
Oh, then another time,
we had to go on a trip

251
00:13:32,010 --> 00:13:35,070
to pick up supplies up
to Coventry, England.

252
00:13:35,070 --> 00:13:37,590
And you remember the
Coventry thing, where

253
00:13:37,590 --> 00:13:39,960
a bomb hit an air raid shelter.

254
00:13:39,960 --> 00:13:45,180
And they were all
sealed in there forever.

255
00:13:45,180 --> 00:13:52,830
And driving by Coventry, we ran
across a British fish and chips

256
00:13:52,830 --> 00:13:54,390
place.

257
00:13:54,390 --> 00:14:00,120
And the fish and chips were
put into old newspaper.

258
00:14:00,120 --> 00:14:01,950
And then we drove out of town.

259
00:14:01,950 --> 00:14:02,942
We didn't get very far.

260
00:14:02,942 --> 00:14:04,650
But we had to turn
around, and come back,

261
00:14:04,650 --> 00:14:06,210
and get a second order of it.

262
00:14:06,210 --> 00:14:10,110
They were so delicious, even
though they had a little print

263
00:14:10,110 --> 00:14:12,770
sometimes on a French fry.

264
00:14:12,770 --> 00:14:17,220

265
00:14:17,220 --> 00:14:19,560
What about Salisbury?

266
00:14:19,560 --> 00:14:21,720
You mentioned earlier
to me that there used

267
00:14:21,720 --> 00:14:23,635
to be dances near Salisbury.

268
00:14:23,635 --> 00:14:27,210
Well, they'd hold officer
dances at the Officers

269

00:14:27,210 --> 00:14:30,690

Club on our base.

270

00:14:30,690 --> 00:14:34,180

And they would go out
and get these girls.

271

00:14:34,180 --> 00:14:38,250

The single guys-- the
single pilots and all--

272

00:14:38,250 --> 00:14:39,975

they could go out and do that.

273

00:14:39,975 --> 00:14:43,965

Us old married people had
to stick to our inventing.

274

00:14:43,965 --> 00:14:45,450

[LAUGHTER]

275

00:14:45,450 --> 00:14:51,030

So anyway, they would
bring them in to the base

276

00:14:51,030 --> 00:14:55,200

and then had the responsibility
to take them back to their home

277

00:14:55,200 --> 00:14:56,550

after.

278

00:14:56,550 --> 00:15:00,540

Were there any incidents
there of civilians,

279

00:15:00,540 --> 00:15:02,740

some of the girls, who
might have been hurt?

280

00:15:02,740 --> 00:15:04,830

That's the only ones I know of.

281
00:15:04,830 --> 00:15:07,260
Well, tell us about
that incident.

282
00:15:07,260 --> 00:15:10,645
Tell us about that incident that
you mentioned to me off camera.

283
00:15:10,645 --> 00:15:12,270
Oh, I thought it was
on camera already.

284
00:15:12,270 --> 00:15:13,540
No, it wasn't on camera.

285
00:15:13,540 --> 00:15:19,730
Yeah, well, during that
particular period of time,

286
00:15:19,730 --> 00:15:23,030
the headlights of the Jeeps
and every ground vehicle,

287
00:15:23,030 --> 00:15:25,880
including civilian
cars if any, had

288
00:15:25,880 --> 00:15:30,830
to have a little slit in
the light with projectile

289
00:15:30,830 --> 00:15:32,420
that slit, enough--

290
00:15:32,420 --> 00:15:34,640
not to see too much of
the road or anything,

291
00:15:34,640 --> 00:15:38,130
but for other drivers
to be able to see it.

292

00:15:38,130 --> 00:15:45,290

So these two young pilots
were taking their girlfriends

293

00:15:45,290 --> 00:15:46,370

for the night.

294

00:15:46,370 --> 00:15:49,427

They had picked them up and
brought them in for the dance.

295

00:15:49,427 --> 00:15:50,010

No, I'm sorry.

296

00:15:50,010 --> 00:15:51,170

It's the other way around.

297

00:15:51,170 --> 00:15:54,230

They having picked
them up at their homes,

298

00:15:54,230 --> 00:15:58,290

were coming in to the
base before the dance.

299

00:15:58,290 --> 00:16:09,070

And the small headlight,
the small square of light,

300

00:16:09,070 --> 00:16:14,920

wasn't enough for
them to be stopped

301

00:16:14,920 --> 00:16:17,470

or have the pilot see it in
time for him to do something.

302

00:16:17,470 --> 00:16:22,600

But a pilot was coming
back from a night mission

303

00:16:22,600 --> 00:16:25,060

where he was training.

304

00:16:25,060 --> 00:16:28,390

And he was just
crossing the highway

305

00:16:28,390 --> 00:16:34,810

where the Jeep-load of
people were coming his way.

306

00:16:34,810 --> 00:16:39,730

And his right prop started
chewing up the Jeep.

307

00:16:39,730 --> 00:16:42,250

And it did result in--

308

00:16:42,250 --> 00:16:45,520

one pilot was
killed immediately.

309

00:16:45,520 --> 00:16:49,240

And another pilot
lost an arm and a leg.

310

00:16:49,240 --> 00:16:51,220

And the two girls
were fatally injured,

311

00:16:51,220 --> 00:16:54,280

but they didn't die instantly.

312

00:16:54,280 --> 00:16:58,660

Bob Owens tells the story
that he was right next to--

313

00:16:58,660 --> 00:17:01,550

his office was right
next to the accident.

314

00:17:01,550 --> 00:17:03,340

So he was the
first on the scene.

315
00:17:03,340 --> 00:17:05,665
And he was holding
the girls in his arms.

316
00:17:05,665 --> 00:17:10,420

317
00:17:10,420 --> 00:17:14,290
And was all this
classified information?

318
00:17:14,290 --> 00:17:15,530
Oh, of course.

319
00:17:15,530 --> 00:17:16,030
OK.

320
00:17:16,030 --> 00:17:18,440
This information never
would get out to the public.

321
00:17:18,440 --> 00:17:26,240
Because the public was only fed
information that was positive.

322
00:17:26,240 --> 00:17:32,870
Very few of the setbacks were
ever mentioned to the public.

323
00:17:32,870 --> 00:17:36,590
And I think even the Bridge
Too Far movie that was made--

324
00:17:36,590 --> 00:17:38,450
I don't think the
impression was given

325
00:17:38,450 --> 00:17:40,590
that it was a failure at all.

326
00:17:40,590 --> 00:17:44,900

It was just another
very exciting mission.

327
00:17:44,900 --> 00:17:49,190
And these are
items that were not

328
00:17:49,190 --> 00:17:52,160
fed to the public
for one big reason.

329
00:17:52,160 --> 00:17:55,190
The public was doing
a magnificent job

330
00:17:55,190 --> 00:17:58,730
of producing all of
the war materials

331
00:17:58,730 --> 00:18:02,180
that were needed for that
huge undertaking for all

332
00:18:02,180 --> 00:18:05,030
of the different participants,
including Russia--

333
00:18:05,030 --> 00:18:06,800
Russia and England mainly--

334
00:18:06,800 --> 00:18:10,680
and the French when
they were able to.

335
00:18:10,680 --> 00:18:14,230
And had they released
any of this information,

336
00:18:14,230 --> 00:18:16,980
it might have destroyed
some morale back home.

337
00:18:16,980 --> 00:18:19,570

And they had a good reason,
I think, for doing it.

338
00:18:19,570 --> 00:18:24,060
So the fact that they didn't
tell the home front everything,

339
00:18:24,060 --> 00:18:25,260
I can understand.

340
00:18:25,260 --> 00:18:26,760
Yeah, yeah.

341
00:18:26,760 --> 00:18:29,730
But do you feel
better now that it's

342
00:18:29,730 --> 00:18:31,467
possible to talk
about these things?

343
00:18:31,467 --> 00:18:33,300
Do you think people
need to know about them?

344
00:18:33,300 --> 00:18:34,770
I think they really
need to know,

345
00:18:34,770 --> 00:18:40,537
because a varnished
truth is not the truth.

346
00:18:40,537 --> 00:18:42,870
And if they want to know the
truth about went on-- and I

347
00:18:42,870 --> 00:18:44,790
think most people do--

348
00:18:44,790 --> 00:18:46,140
I've talked to my grandson.

349

00:18:46,140 --> 00:18:47,610

And I've talked to my son.

350

00:18:47,610 --> 00:18:50,820

And every one of them agree
that this is the right way

351

00:18:50,820 --> 00:18:52,590

to go is to let it out.

352

00:18:52,590 --> 00:18:54,960

Mm-hmm.

353

00:18:54,960 --> 00:18:58,620

Let's turn now to something
that you have said earlier

354

00:18:58,620 --> 00:19:00,910

that was very important to you.

355

00:19:00,910 --> 00:19:04,620

Tell us about the
book, Band of Brothers,

356

00:19:04,620 --> 00:19:09,030

and the author, Stephen Ambrose,
and the story that he told.

357

00:19:09,030 --> 00:19:11,980

Tell us about the
story that he told

358

00:19:11,980 --> 00:19:18,740

and, after that, what you think
is misleading about that story.

359

00:19:18,740 --> 00:19:21,800

Well, the Band of
Brothers was worldwide.

360

00:19:21,800 --> 00:19:25,130

It was a very, very

successful movie.

361

00:19:25,130 --> 00:19:28,010

And of course, the people
that made the movie

362

00:19:28,010 --> 00:19:31,670

was following a script
that was flawed.

363

00:19:31,670 --> 00:19:33,830

So I don't fault
any of the actors

364

00:19:33,830 --> 00:19:37,020

or any other participants
in that movie,

365

00:19:37,020 --> 00:19:40,780

including the
paratroopers involved.

366

00:19:40,780 --> 00:19:44,820

The only thing that was
missing was the fact--

367

00:19:44,820 --> 00:19:47,650

and I think a very
important fact was missing--

368

00:19:47,650 --> 00:19:52,900

was that no pilot,
no member, no--

369

00:19:52,900 --> 00:19:53,400

Excuse me.

370

00:19:53,400 --> 00:19:54,870

I have to stop you.

371

00:19:54,870 --> 00:19:57,570

What was the story of
the Band of Brothers?

372
00:19:57,570 --> 00:20:00,290
Can you summarize to
us, what was the story

373
00:20:00,290 --> 00:20:01,290
of the Band of Brothers?

374
00:20:01,290 --> 00:20:08,400
It was a series of very, very
exciting and apparently true

375
00:20:08,400 --> 00:20:13,950
story of the 101st and
82nd Airborne being dropped

376
00:20:13,950 --> 00:20:17,700
into France on Normandy
on D-Day, for example--

377
00:20:17,700 --> 00:20:19,410
mainly on D-Day.

378
00:20:19,410 --> 00:20:22,560
That's where the most damage
was done to our reputation.

379
00:20:22,560 --> 00:20:25,320

380
00:20:25,320 --> 00:20:28,120
These people that
they interviewed

381
00:20:28,120 --> 00:20:34,520
happened to be people
that were on a plane that

382
00:20:34,520 --> 00:20:36,620
went into this
terrible cloud bank

383

00:20:36,620 --> 00:20:41,000
that they encountered just
before the drop zones.

384
00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:41,900
Excuse me again.

385
00:20:41,900 --> 00:20:42,810
I have to interrupt.

386
00:20:42,810 --> 00:20:44,420
Yeah, sure.

387
00:20:44,420 --> 00:20:47,330
Are you talking now about
the story of Band of Brothers

388
00:20:47,330 --> 00:20:51,465
or about interviews
done for the story?

389
00:20:51,465 --> 00:20:52,840
I'd like to know
more about, what

390
00:20:52,840 --> 00:20:55,240
was the story of the
Band of Brothers,

391
00:20:55,240 --> 00:20:58,130
and what were the points that
were being made in that story?

392
00:20:58,130 --> 00:20:58,630
Oh, yeah.

393
00:20:58,630 --> 00:21:04,950
It was mainly a story about
their training, their formation

394
00:21:04,950 --> 00:21:05,950
back here in the States.

395

00:21:05,950 --> 00:21:08,500

There was different CDs.

396

00:21:08,500 --> 00:21:10,340

I think there are
about seven CDs.

397

00:21:10,340 --> 00:21:11,560

OK.

398

00:21:11,560 --> 00:21:21,530

And it would go from home here
at their training bases here.

399

00:21:21,530 --> 00:21:22,970

Then they'd go to England.

400

00:21:22,970 --> 00:21:25,940

And they're training in
England in the countryside,

401

00:21:25,940 --> 00:21:29,060

and how they got acquainted
with the British people,

402

00:21:29,060 --> 00:21:30,260

and so forth.

403

00:21:30,260 --> 00:21:34,010

Then they had the story
of the actual one of the--

404

00:21:34,010 --> 00:21:36,020

I think the third CD.

405

00:21:36,020 --> 00:21:39,560

Somewhere in there, it told
about their actual landing

406

00:21:39,560 --> 00:21:41,840

in Normandy, the
first people ever

407

00:21:41,840 --> 00:21:46,245
to touch foot in Normandy
since the Nazis took over.

408

00:21:46,245 --> 00:21:46,745
Mm-hmm.

409

00:21:46,745 --> 00:21:54,090
A wonderful story had
it not been mistold.

410

00:21:54,090 --> 00:22:01,980
Keeping ongoing, it was
then the race across France,

411

00:22:01,980 --> 00:22:05,970
and the various strategies,
and the big battles they were

412

00:22:05,970 --> 00:22:12,600
involved in, and then Bastogne.

413

00:22:12,600 --> 00:22:14,470
They were the
heroes of Bastogne.

414

00:22:14,470 --> 00:22:17,400
They deserved every
accolade they could get,

415

00:22:17,400 --> 00:22:19,840
because they were a tough bunch.

416

00:22:19,840 --> 00:22:20,670
OK.

417

00:22:20,670 --> 00:22:24,450
And at what part do you say--

418

00:22:24,450 --> 00:22:28,680
what was shown in

the movie or written

419

00:22:28,680 --> 00:22:32,120

in the book where
you say it damaged

420

00:22:32,120 --> 00:22:35,420

the reputation of the 101st--

421

00:22:35,420 --> 00:22:36,860

is that what--

422

00:22:36,860 --> 00:22:41,000

No, the reputation of the
9th Troop Carrier Command.

423

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:41,780

OK.

424

00:22:41,780 --> 00:22:46,280

How was the 9th Troop
Carrier Command portrayed?

425

00:22:46,280 --> 00:22:50,660

They were portrayed as a bunch
of over-the-hill airline pilots

426

00:22:50,660 --> 00:23:00,050

that have been converted
to drive these big crash--

427

00:23:00,050 --> 00:23:01,560

big airplanes.

428

00:23:01,560 --> 00:23:02,930

It was unflattering.

429

00:23:02,930 --> 00:23:04,700

I can't remember
the exact words.

430

00:23:04,700 --> 00:23:10,850

But in any event, I got a
story from Captain Gates--

431
00:23:10,850 --> 00:23:13,100
was then a Major Gates.

432
00:23:13,100 --> 00:23:16,460
Hang on a second
before we go there.

433
00:23:16,460 --> 00:23:20,718
So they were portrayed as
over-the-hill airline pilots

434
00:23:20,718 --> 00:23:22,260
who didn't know what
they were doing.

435
00:23:22,260 --> 00:23:24,168
Is this what the issue was?

436
00:23:24,168 --> 00:23:25,710
Well, they knew what
they were doing,

437
00:23:25,710 --> 00:23:29,940
but they were just
drivers of transports.

438
00:23:29,940 --> 00:23:30,810
That's it.

439
00:23:30,810 --> 00:23:32,520
Of airplane transports.

440
00:23:32,520 --> 00:23:33,600
Airplane drivers.

441
00:23:33,600 --> 00:23:34,580
OK.

442
00:23:34,580 --> 00:23:36,180

OK.

443

00:23:36,180 --> 00:23:42,030

The indication seemed to
be that group of pilots

444

00:23:42,030 --> 00:23:45,810

were the lower
echelon of pilots.

445

00:23:45,810 --> 00:23:47,540

OK.

446

00:23:47,540 --> 00:23:50,700

So that's how it was
in Band of Brothers.

447

00:23:50,700 --> 00:23:54,110

What was it like in
your view and according

448

00:23:54,110 --> 00:23:56,570

to your experience?

449

00:23:56,570 --> 00:23:59,000

Just the real story
that I kind of

450

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:06,540

like to get out to
help bring the fame

451

00:24:06,540 --> 00:24:12,510

of the real accomplishment
of the 90th Troop Carrier

452

00:24:12,510 --> 00:24:13,930

Command--

453

00:24:13,930 --> 00:24:15,930

bring it into the truth.

454

00:24:15,930 --> 00:24:18,060
And they did marvelous things.

455
00:24:18,060 --> 00:24:20,530
They did really
marvelous things.

456
00:24:20,530 --> 00:24:24,780
First of all, instead of being
old, inexperienced airline

457
00:24:24,780 --> 00:24:29,380
pilots who knew nothing about
night flying or anything,

458
00:24:29,380 --> 00:24:33,150
they were really highly trained.

459
00:24:33,150 --> 00:24:35,630
They were highly
trained in the States.

460
00:24:35,630 --> 00:24:39,780
I mentioned at lunch, they were
highly trained in the States

461
00:24:39,780 --> 00:24:42,960
by being forced to fly
5 feet over the highest

462
00:24:42,960 --> 00:24:46,140
obstacle for 500 miles.

463
00:24:46,140 --> 00:24:53,380
And they were highly trained,
because for many weeks

464
00:24:53,380 --> 00:25:01,430
before D-Day, I held schooling
in all the different radar

465
00:25:01,430 --> 00:25:02,880
in the aircraft.

466

00:25:02,880 --> 00:25:05,450

Every pilot knew how
to operate the Rebecca

467

00:25:05,450 --> 00:25:12,500

gear, which was one of the main
airborne navigation pieces.

468

00:25:12,500 --> 00:25:15,170

He knew all about
offering the new British G

469

00:25:15,170 --> 00:25:17,675

system that was brought
aboard by another story.

470

00:25:17,675 --> 00:25:21,450

471

00:25:21,450 --> 00:25:23,010

We did an awful lot of training.

472

00:25:23,010 --> 00:25:25,110

And these are
highly-trained people.

473

00:25:25,110 --> 00:25:27,180

They were trained
so well, in fact,

474

00:25:27,180 --> 00:25:34,540

that they were chosen by
Eisenhower to be the lead group

475

00:25:34,540 --> 00:25:41,290

to lead the whole group
of aircraft participating

476

00:25:41,290 --> 00:25:47,530

in the invasion into the fields
of fire, like we say here--

477

00:25:47,530 --> 00:25:52,135
into Germany, into Normandy.

478

00:25:52,135 --> 00:25:54,310
OK, into Normandy,
France first, yeah?

479

00:25:54,310 --> 00:25:55,870
Yeah, we were the
absolute first.

480

00:25:55,870 --> 00:26:02,710
We allowed the 101st Troop
Carrier and 82nd Troop Carrier

481

00:26:02,710 --> 00:26:05,745
to be the first put
boots on the ground.

482

00:26:05,745 --> 00:26:07,870
But they wouldn't have been
able to put those boots

483

00:26:07,870 --> 00:26:09,460
on the ground were
it not for the fact

484

00:26:09,460 --> 00:26:13,180
that we were very proficient
in finding the spot where they

485

00:26:13,180 --> 00:26:17,620
should be, as well
as not losing anyone

486

00:26:17,620 --> 00:26:21,340
that we are aware of in the
flight part of the operation.

487

00:26:21,340 --> 00:26:22,900
So then they turned around.

488

00:26:22,900 --> 00:26:28,240
And they come back to the field
and picked up the gliders.

489
00:26:28,240 --> 00:26:31,420
And they helped one
glider per aircraft--

490
00:26:31,420 --> 00:26:35,150
took off, flew
those gliders on in.

491
00:26:35,150 --> 00:26:40,290
And one of my very close friends
and most senior fighter pilots

492
00:26:40,290 --> 00:26:42,480
was killed in that
particular operation.

493
00:26:42,480 --> 00:26:43,740
Before that was flawless.

494
00:26:43,740 --> 00:26:44,620
No one had died.

495
00:26:44,620 --> 00:26:46,690
No planes were lost.

496
00:26:46,690 --> 00:26:48,980
And they flew that group in.

497
00:26:48,980 --> 00:26:50,460
What was his name?

498
00:26:50,460 --> 00:26:53,090
His name was Lieutenant Darling.

499
00:26:53,090 --> 00:26:57,620
And he has a cross at one
of the close cemeteries

500

00:26:57,620 --> 00:27:01,780
there that I've got
pictures of and so forth.

501
00:27:01,780 --> 00:27:11,500
But the stories of those
pilots of the gliders--

502
00:27:11,500 --> 00:27:13,300
I'll get it straight--

503
00:27:13,300 --> 00:27:16,590
became fighters when
they got on the ground.

504
00:27:16,590 --> 00:27:18,340
They were just part
of the fighting group.

505
00:27:18,340 --> 00:27:23,470
So they took their
different weapons.

506
00:27:23,470 --> 00:27:26,260
And they tried hard to--
you're supposed to get back

507
00:27:26,260 --> 00:27:28,150
as fast as they could.

508
00:27:28,150 --> 00:27:34,810
And some of them had
some harrowing stories

509
00:27:34,810 --> 00:27:40,480
to tell of how Germans would
massacre the soldiers that

510
00:27:40,480 --> 00:27:43,300
were in some of the downed
gliders, and injured,

511
00:27:43,300 --> 00:27:44,500

and so on.

512

00:27:44,500 --> 00:27:49,820

It was too much detail to
even bring him along now,

513

00:27:49,820 --> 00:27:53,340

with one exception.

514

00:27:53,340 --> 00:27:59,550

One of the pilots that came back
was a very quiet, red-headed

515

00:27:59,550 --> 00:28:02,510

glider pilot.

516

00:28:02,510 --> 00:28:05,630

They cut loose from
the tow aircraft.

517

00:28:05,630 --> 00:28:08,690

And while he was landing,
there was a German soldier

518

00:28:08,690 --> 00:28:13,850

in the middle of the
little hedgerow field.

519

00:28:13,850 --> 00:28:17,000

And he had what they
call a burp gun.

520

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:19,145

That's an automatic pistol.

521

00:28:19,145 --> 00:28:21,770

522

00:28:21,770 --> 00:28:24,920

He was waiting for him to get
close enough in other words.

523

00:28:24,920 --> 00:28:26,450
They were dead ducks.

524
00:28:26,450 --> 00:28:29,450
So he kicked the
windshield out of his--

525
00:28:29,450 --> 00:28:30,800
he was a co-pilot.

526
00:28:30,800 --> 00:28:33,410
He kicked the windshield
out, and took his gun,

527
00:28:33,410 --> 00:28:34,370
took careful aim.

528
00:28:34,370 --> 00:28:37,730
And the glider,
after it's cut loose,

529
00:28:37,730 --> 00:28:40,040
it's very stable, very steady.

530
00:28:40,040 --> 00:28:45,160
He killed a German
soldier and saved,

531
00:28:45,160 --> 00:28:50,070
of course, that whole planeload.

532
00:28:50,070 --> 00:28:51,780
One other thing-- the
German was standing

533
00:28:51,780 --> 00:28:52,980
in the middle of a field.

534
00:28:52,980 --> 00:28:55,800
The Germans and
all the hedgerows

535

00:28:55,800 --> 00:29:02,910
around waiting to shoot and
they were using wooden bullets.

536
00:29:02,910 --> 00:29:05,270
I don't think that's well known.

537
00:29:05,270 --> 00:29:09,440
Wooden bullets were
blue-coated hardwood bullets.

538
00:29:09,440 --> 00:29:14,700
And they would travel
a certain distance

539
00:29:14,700 --> 00:29:16,630
before losing their velocity.

540
00:29:16,630 --> 00:29:19,530
So before it hits the
opposite hedgerow--

541
00:29:19,530 --> 00:29:23,130
it was twice as far away as
the German in the middle--

542
00:29:23,130 --> 00:29:26,130
they would fade out.

543
00:29:26,130 --> 00:29:28,710
If they hit a person, though,
they were devastating.

544
00:29:28,710 --> 00:29:30,480
Were they like
exploding bullets?

545
00:29:30,480 --> 00:29:33,893
They almost had about the same
effect to your internal organs.

546
00:29:33,893 --> 00:29:35,310
They would never

pass through you.

547

00:29:35,310 --> 00:29:37,500

They'd just tear
you up terribly.

548

00:29:37,500 --> 00:29:40,152

So they were vicious.

549

00:29:40,152 --> 00:29:44,520

But as I said, I haven't heard
from anyone else anywhere

550

00:29:44,520 --> 00:29:45,060

about it.

551

00:29:45,060 --> 00:29:47,130

I even brought some back.

552

00:29:47,130 --> 00:29:49,020

And eventually, my
kids were probably

553

00:29:49,020 --> 00:29:51,180

playing with them and stuff.

554

00:29:51,180 --> 00:29:54,000

I lost them.

555

00:29:54,000 --> 00:29:58,860

So those bullets were
being aimed at the gliders?

556

00:29:58,860 --> 00:30:07,460

They were being aimed
at the glider load.

557

00:30:07,460 --> 00:30:10,970

The paratroopers or glider
troopers, they were called.

558

00:30:10,970 --> 00:30:14,510

The nose of the glider
would tilt up on landing.

559
00:30:14,510 --> 00:30:16,820
And then they could
race off from the front

560
00:30:16,820 --> 00:30:18,350
in different directions.

561
00:30:18,350 --> 00:30:21,770
But he was waiting to shoot
them as they were coming out.

562
00:30:21,770 --> 00:30:25,810
And the ones around
the hedgerows

563
00:30:25,810 --> 00:30:28,990
were waiting to get them
with the wooden bullets

564
00:30:28,990 --> 00:30:31,210
without hurting
their own people.

565
00:30:31,210 --> 00:30:33,070
And that's why they
use them, because they

566
00:30:33,070 --> 00:30:36,340
lost their velocity before
they'd hit the other hedgerow.

567
00:30:36,340 --> 00:30:37,500
Exactly.

568
00:30:37,500 --> 00:30:38,260
I see.

569
00:30:38,260 --> 00:30:41,860
And were they able to use them?

570

00:30:41,860 --> 00:30:44,500

What happened to the glider--

571

00:30:44,500 --> 00:30:46,060

were any of the gliders lost?

572

00:30:46,060 --> 00:30:48,160

On this particular

one, the Germans

573

00:30:48,160 --> 00:30:49,330

were not in the hedgerows.

574

00:30:49,330 --> 00:30:52,790

This was just a situation I

brought up as a side issue.

575

00:30:52,790 --> 00:30:53,290

OK.

576

00:30:53,290 --> 00:31:00,730

But on this one where he killed

his potential executioner,

577

00:31:00,730 --> 00:31:03,130

they didn't have any

in the hedgerows there.

578

00:31:03,130 --> 00:31:05,410

He was able to get everyone out.

579

00:31:05,410 --> 00:31:06,910

And he got back.

580

00:31:06,910 --> 00:31:09,010

OK.

581

00:31:09,010 --> 00:31:15,340

So have you given a

full story according

582

00:31:15,340 --> 00:31:18,940
to what you believe
we need to know about,

583
00:31:18,940 --> 00:31:20,950
what was the true
professionalism

584
00:31:20,950 --> 00:31:26,110
of the pilots and those who
were piloting the glider planes?

585
00:31:26,110 --> 00:31:28,750
Or is there more that you
want to show that they really

586
00:31:28,750 --> 00:31:30,430
did know their stuff?

587
00:31:30,430 --> 00:31:32,470
Well, the best
evidence was the fact

588
00:31:32,470 --> 00:31:36,130
they got the
presidential citation.

589
00:31:36,130 --> 00:31:39,860
It's either the presidential
or department citation.

590
00:31:39,860 --> 00:31:43,930
Some call it presidential--
a citation as being the only

591
00:31:43,930 --> 00:31:49,390
group of 1,000 airplanes
that were flying--

592
00:31:49,390 --> 00:31:53,390
the only group to
win that award.

593

00:31:53,390 --> 00:31:56,310
And then the 88th
other group that

594
00:31:56,310 --> 00:32:02,140
liberated your actual
slave labor camps there,

595
00:32:02,140 --> 00:32:04,310
also the 88th one--

596
00:32:04,310 --> 00:32:10,210
the same distinguished
citation as a unit citation.

597
00:32:10,210 --> 00:32:12,940
Every member of the group
could wear the ribbon.

598
00:32:12,940 --> 00:32:14,590
What did the ribbon look like?

599
00:32:14,590 --> 00:32:20,733
It was a gold-framed
blue, just plain blue.

600
00:32:20,733 --> 00:32:23,150
I was going to bring them
along, but I couldn't find them.

601
00:32:23,150 --> 00:32:26,870

602
00:32:26,870 --> 00:32:29,660
So why did the Band of
Brothers get it wrong?

603
00:32:29,660 --> 00:32:31,670
Because the author got it wrong.

604
00:32:31,670 --> 00:32:33,230
He was a famous author.

605

00:32:33,230 --> 00:32:33,980

Mm-hmm.

606

00:32:33,980 --> 00:32:35,130

What was his name?

607

00:32:35,130 --> 00:32:38,000

His name is Stephen Ambrose.

608

00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:41,190

And we-- when I say we--

609

00:32:41,190 --> 00:32:47,000

some of the Troop

Carrier people,

610

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:51,770

such as Major Gates who

is now Colonel Gates--

611

00:32:51,770 --> 00:32:56,970

and he wrote an email to

me that was very revealing.

612

00:32:56,970 --> 00:33:00,050

He's the one that said that not

one Troop Carrier pilot to his

613

00:33:00,050 --> 00:33:03,570

is knowledge-- and he

was quite high up there--

614

00:33:03,570 --> 00:33:06,720

had ever been

interviewed for this.

615

00:33:06,720 --> 00:33:10,860

So although it was a wonderful

movie and a very successful

616

00:33:10,860 --> 00:33:11,400

movie--

617
00:33:11,400 --> 00:33:12,975
we can't blame
any of the actors,

618
00:33:12,975 --> 00:33:15,840
and we can't blame any of
the participants in it.

619
00:33:15,840 --> 00:33:19,050
Because they had no
knowledge that he had not

620
00:33:19,050 --> 00:33:20,190
interviewed any of these.

621
00:33:20,190 --> 00:33:22,460
However, the damage
had been done.

622
00:33:22,460 --> 00:33:28,310
And a lawsuit was started
by the 438th Troop Carrier

623
00:33:28,310 --> 00:33:33,800
Group against Ambrose, not
against Band of Brothers.

624
00:33:33,800 --> 00:33:37,280
And it was proceeding
at the time he died.

625
00:33:37,280 --> 00:33:37,910
I see.

626
00:33:37,910 --> 00:33:38,810
Ambrose died.

627
00:33:38,810 --> 00:33:44,100
And then the Troop Carrier
Group dropped the lawsuit.

628

00:33:44,100 --> 00:33:46,220
And what were they
charging him again?

629
00:33:46,220 --> 00:33:48,530
Against defamation.

630
00:33:48,530 --> 00:33:50,570
I mean, it's ruining
the reputation

631
00:33:50,570 --> 00:33:59,210
of an entire command.

632
00:33:59,210 --> 00:34:01,460
How many people
would that involve?

633
00:34:01,460 --> 00:34:05,150
Well, it involved
1,000 aircraft.

634
00:34:05,150 --> 00:34:11,239
And 1,000 aircraft involved at
least five people per aircraft

635
00:34:11,239 --> 00:34:14,219
plus the ground personnel
that equal that.

636
00:34:14,219 --> 00:34:20,139
So you can use the math
on it and figure out that

637
00:34:20,139 --> 00:34:22,250
an awful lot of people--

638
00:34:22,250 --> 00:34:23,440
some people didn't care.

639
00:34:23,440 --> 00:34:24,440
They got out of the war.

640

00:34:24,440 --> 00:34:25,489

Hey, am I still alive?

641

00:34:25,489 --> 00:34:27,639

What am I complaining about?

642

00:34:27,639 --> 00:34:28,650

But some did.

643

00:34:28,650 --> 00:34:31,530

And it's still hurting

us for the fact

644

00:34:31,530 --> 00:34:37,290

that the Holocaust

happened yesterday showed

645

00:34:37,290 --> 00:34:44,060

the people that liberated--

646

00:34:44,060 --> 00:34:47,000

the different groups

and liberated it.

647

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:48,250

And it showed the 101st.

648

00:34:48,250 --> 00:34:50,429

It showed the 82nd.

649

00:34:50,429 --> 00:34:52,664

But there was a vacant

spot down below there

650

00:34:52,664 --> 00:34:58,910

that didn't show

the 90th Air Force.

651

00:34:58,910 --> 00:35:02,480

Because the thought was that

nobody but ground people

652

00:35:02,480 --> 00:35:05,540
were involved in the liberation.

653

00:35:05,540 --> 00:35:06,740
So that's the thing that--

654

00:35:06,740 --> 00:35:09,620

655

00:35:09,620 --> 00:35:12,800
Forgive me for this, but
was there a direct way

656

00:35:12,800 --> 00:35:16,010
that the 90th
Aircraft was involved?

657

00:35:16,010 --> 00:35:22,440
Well, our thought would be--

658

00:35:22,440 --> 00:35:26,810
maybe it's only mine-- but our
thought would be that the fact

659

00:35:26,810 --> 00:35:30,920
that this plane shortened
the war so much that a lot

660

00:35:30,920 --> 00:35:34,670
of the Holocaust survivors
benefited from the fact that--

661

00:35:34,670 --> 00:35:37,970
and were still alive
today because of the--

662

00:35:37,970 --> 00:35:40,370
even Eisenhower said that--

663

00:35:40,370 --> 00:35:44,510
said that we were such a
big force in ending the war.

664
00:35:44,510 --> 00:35:48,590
And so was the ground troops
that fought from foxholes

665
00:35:48,590 --> 00:35:49,310
and so forth.

666
00:35:49,310 --> 00:35:51,590
I'm taking nothing
away from them.

667
00:35:51,590 --> 00:35:52,790
They did a great job.

668
00:35:52,790 --> 00:35:55,330
And a great number of them died.

669
00:35:55,330 --> 00:36:02,990
And so did a great number of
the people in the 9th Troop

670
00:36:02,990 --> 00:36:04,240
Air Command.

671
00:36:04,240 --> 00:36:06,720
They also died.

672
00:36:06,720 --> 00:36:17,780
So my feeling that liberators--
we were the pre-liberators.

673
00:36:17,780 --> 00:36:20,170
You might put it that way.

674
00:36:20,170 --> 00:36:21,625
We shortened the time.

675
00:36:21,625 --> 00:36:22,840
OK.

676

00:36:22,840 --> 00:36:27,120
Had it not been for
us supplying gasoline

677
00:36:27,120 --> 00:36:29,790
as the fast we did
to Patton, those

678
00:36:29,790 --> 00:36:32,640
ground troops that
liberated the camp would not

679
00:36:32,640 --> 00:36:34,500
have been there yet.

680
00:36:34,500 --> 00:36:37,920
They weren't free
enough to be there yet.

681
00:36:37,920 --> 00:36:41,130
So that's my position.

682
00:36:41,130 --> 00:36:42,600
Is there anything
else you'd want

683
00:36:42,600 --> 00:36:47,243
to add to this episode,
this part of the story

684
00:36:47,243 --> 00:36:47,910
that you think--

685
00:36:47,910 --> 00:36:50,520
No, that's basically
the thing that's

686
00:36:50,520 --> 00:36:54,730
driven me for trying to piece
the whole thing together,

687
00:36:54,730 --> 00:36:56,310
particularly in

the last two years.

688
00:36:56,310 --> 00:36:58,080
Because I didn't
know the whole story.

689
00:36:58,080 --> 00:37:02,390
I couldn't put it together.

690
00:37:02,390 --> 00:37:04,260
OK.

691
00:37:04,260 --> 00:37:05,790
Just two points of
fact that were--

692
00:37:05,790 --> 00:37:06,880
Sure.

693
00:37:06,880 --> 00:37:09,700
You keep saying--
either 90th or the 9th?

694
00:37:09,700 --> 00:37:12,280
90th, 9-0.

695
00:37:12,280 --> 00:37:13,600
I heard 9th, and I heard 90th.

696
00:37:13,600 --> 00:37:14,733
So it's definitely 90th.

697
00:37:14,733 --> 00:37:16,150
OK, the second one
was [INAUDIBLE]

698
00:37:16,150 --> 00:37:18,532
Patton was a field
marshal for England.

699
00:37:18,532 --> 00:37:20,240
If Fairbanks had a

relationship with him,

700

00:37:20,240 --> 00:37:21,573

they had to know the commission.

701

00:37:21,573 --> 00:37:23,950

Was it a British commission
or American commission

702

00:37:23,950 --> 00:37:28,270

in the Navy, since you
were with him on Corsica?

703

00:37:28,270 --> 00:37:30,788

He was with the United
States Navy at that time.

704

00:37:30,788 --> 00:37:32,080

It had to be a Navy commission.

705

00:37:32,080 --> 00:37:33,692

So he left from
the British Army.

706

00:37:33,692 --> 00:37:34,900

Yeah, there could have been--

707

00:37:34,900 --> 00:37:35,410

--American.

708

00:37:35,410 --> 00:37:37,000

So that's an interesting fact.

709

00:37:37,000 --> 00:37:39,170

He had a title.

710

00:37:39,170 --> 00:37:41,620

So if we can just
explore this, I

711

00:37:41,620 --> 00:37:45,400

don't know whether your voice

is caught on the mic when

712

00:37:45,400 --> 00:37:46,840
you're asking this question.

713

00:37:46,840 --> 00:37:51,070
If I can repeat it,
Douglas Fairbanks, Jr

714

00:37:51,070 --> 00:37:54,850
had both a British commission,
as well as a US commission.

715

00:37:54,850 --> 00:37:56,590
Is that correct?

716

00:37:56,590 --> 00:37:57,580
That was the question.

717

00:37:57,580 --> 00:38:00,550
And he had, definitely at
the time I was involved,

718

00:38:00,550 --> 00:38:08,770
an American commission and
an American Navy group.

719

00:38:08,770 --> 00:38:11,660
His British-- he
had a title there.

720

00:38:11,660 --> 00:38:12,910
And I think it was Lieutenant.

721

00:38:12,910 --> 00:38:14,770
But I can't tell you.

722

00:38:14,770 --> 00:38:19,900
And I'm not even sure what
Lieutenant meant in rank there.

723

00:38:19,900 --> 00:38:23,140

But I did want to mention
one more humorous side

724
00:38:23,140 --> 00:38:27,140
of the Montgomery story.

725
00:38:27,140 --> 00:38:31,250
During the build up--

726
00:38:31,250 --> 00:38:36,240
it could have even been
a day before D-Day--

727
00:38:36,240 --> 00:38:36,990
oh, no, I'm sorry.

728
00:38:36,990 --> 00:38:39,370
This is different.

729
00:38:39,370 --> 00:38:41,240
Let me straighten that out.

730
00:38:41,240 --> 00:38:41,740
Sure.

731
00:38:41,740 --> 00:38:44,260
Because he was on the
base at that time, too.

732
00:38:44,260 --> 00:38:47,340
He was with McArthur in that
famous picture of MacArthur.

733
00:38:47,340 --> 00:38:48,500
Who's he?

734
00:38:48,500 --> 00:38:49,000
Huh?

735
00:38:49,000 --> 00:38:51,160
Who are you referring to?

736
00:38:51,160 --> 00:38:52,750
Montgomery.

737
00:38:52,750 --> 00:38:53,900
Or Mountbatten, which one?

738
00:38:53,900 --> 00:38:54,610
Montgomery.

739
00:38:54,610 --> 00:38:55,110
Montgomery.

740
00:38:55,110 --> 00:38:57,460
Yeah, General Montgomery,
the famous general.

741
00:38:57,460 --> 00:38:58,700
Right.

742
00:38:58,700 --> 00:39:03,070
But around December 23--

743
00:39:03,070 --> 00:39:05,350
from the 20th to the 25th--

744
00:39:05,350 --> 00:39:09,460
was the hold out at Bastogne.

745
00:39:09,460 --> 00:39:12,430
But there was a rumor
around our air base

746
00:39:12,430 --> 00:39:14,560
that a German
prisoner of war camp

747
00:39:14,560 --> 00:39:17,140
was going to break
out on that day.

748
00:39:17,140 --> 00:39:20,260

And we armed everybody
to the teeth.

749
00:39:20,260 --> 00:39:28,840
So I carried a submachine gun,
a Thompson 30-caliber submachine

750
00:39:28,840 --> 00:39:30,420
gun.

751
00:39:30,420 --> 00:39:34,165
And I was appointed officer of
the day on that particular day.

752
00:39:34,165 --> 00:39:39,880
Well, in come this big,
big British command car.

753
00:39:39,880 --> 00:39:43,960
And I had orders that
nobody entered that base

754
00:39:43,960 --> 00:39:47,190
without showing identification.

755
00:39:47,190 --> 00:39:50,160
And so-- not that I
didn't recognize them,

756
00:39:50,160 --> 00:39:52,470
but my orders were
that I had to ask

757
00:39:52,470 --> 00:39:55,890
for identification from
everyone entering that base.

758
00:39:55,890 --> 00:39:59,030
And so he didn't
want to give it.

759
00:39:59,030 --> 00:40:03,770
Well, my submachine gun

was held over the shoulder.

760
00:40:03,770 --> 00:40:04,730
I unstrapped it.

761
00:40:04,730 --> 00:40:07,190
And I said, sir,
can I see your ID?

762
00:40:07,190 --> 00:40:08,420
I got it real quick.

763
00:40:08,420 --> 00:40:09,340
Did you really?

764
00:40:09,340 --> 00:40:11,720
[LAUGHTER]

765
00:40:11,720 --> 00:40:12,860
I got it real quick.

766
00:40:12,860 --> 00:40:14,870
Because there's
no-nonsense time, you know?

767
00:40:14,870 --> 00:40:15,570
Yeah.

768
00:40:15,570 --> 00:40:19,250
And I laughed
afterwards, thinking

769
00:40:19,250 --> 00:40:21,983
that, if I had used
it, it might have

770
00:40:21,983 --> 00:40:23,150
shortened the war even more.

771
00:40:23,150 --> 00:40:24,082
Oh, gosh.

772
00:40:24,082 --> 00:40:24,582
[LAUGHTER]

773
00:40:24,582 --> 00:40:25,890
No, you better strike that one.

774
00:40:25,890 --> 00:40:26,390
Yeah.

775
00:40:26,390 --> 00:40:28,610
[LAUGHTER]

776
00:40:28,610 --> 00:40:32,150
No, it was desperate times.

777
00:40:32,150 --> 00:40:33,380
The fish and chips story.

778
00:40:33,380 --> 00:40:35,070
They were going
back for another--

779
00:40:35,070 --> 00:40:35,570
OK.

780
00:40:35,570 --> 00:40:39,071
You were going back for
another fish and chips.

781
00:40:39,071 --> 00:40:41,570
What was the significance
when you talked to us

782
00:40:41,570 --> 00:40:44,150
about the fish and
chips that you picked up

783
00:40:44,150 --> 00:40:46,730
and how tasty they were, and
you went back for another one.

784

00:40:46,730 --> 00:40:49,070

Was there something
that was part of that?

785

00:40:49,070 --> 00:40:52,040

The part of that was
that we were in Coventry.

786

00:40:52,040 --> 00:40:56,090

And we were reviewing the town,
and getting the history of it,

787

00:40:56,090 --> 00:40:56,660

and so forth.

788

00:40:56,660 --> 00:41:00,110

I actually went there
with a Jeep and a trailer

789

00:41:00,110 --> 00:41:03,950

to pick up parts for
our radar operation.

790

00:41:03,950 --> 00:41:08,570

And we were coming back
from picking up the parts.

791

00:41:08,570 --> 00:41:13,220

And we saw this fish and
chips place along the road.

792

00:41:13,220 --> 00:41:13,940

We stopped.

793

00:41:13,940 --> 00:41:15,800

And we got an order
of fish and chips,

794

00:41:15,800 --> 00:41:19,010

which they carefully wrapped
in a piece of newspaper.

795

00:41:19,010 --> 00:41:23,600

And we continued on our way
to we got a mile or so out

796
00:41:23,600 --> 00:41:24,180
of town.

797
00:41:24,180 --> 00:41:26,060
And we finished
our fish and chips.

798
00:41:26,060 --> 00:41:27,620
They were so darn good.

799
00:41:27,620 --> 00:41:31,550
We had to turn around, make a
trip back for a second batch.

800
00:41:31,550 --> 00:41:33,090
And did you?

801
00:41:33,090 --> 00:41:33,590
And we did.

802
00:41:33,590 --> 00:41:34,623
You got a second batch.

803
00:41:34,623 --> 00:41:35,540
We got a second batch.

804
00:41:35,540 --> 00:41:37,160
And that fish and
chips was not one

805
00:41:37,160 --> 00:41:39,080
of the targets of the Germans?

806
00:41:39,080 --> 00:41:46,460
That was not under any
problem whatsoever.

807
00:41:46,460 --> 00:41:47,870
It was just great.

808
00:41:47,870 --> 00:41:52,270
And since that time, I can't
pass a fish and chips dinner.

809
00:41:52,270 --> 00:41:53,150
OK.

810
00:41:53,150 --> 00:41:55,000
OK.

811
00:41:55,000 --> 00:41:57,280
There was something
else that you had asked,

812
00:41:57,280 --> 00:42:01,030
which was the 9th or the 90th.

813
00:42:01,030 --> 00:42:06,370
He would say either
the 90th or the 9th.

814
00:42:06,370 --> 00:42:08,127
And so, therefore, it
shows a discrepancy.

815
00:42:08,127 --> 00:42:08,710
So what is it?

816
00:42:08,710 --> 00:42:11,620
Without equivocation,
he said the 90th.

817
00:42:11,620 --> 00:42:12,820
So it's the 90th.

818
00:42:12,820 --> 00:42:13,813
Can you explain what?

819
00:42:13,813 --> 00:42:14,980
Because I'm not a military--

820

00:42:14,980 --> 00:42:17,020

It's the 90th Troop

Carrier Group.

821

00:42:17,020 --> 00:42:18,120

The 90th Troop--

822

00:42:18,120 --> 00:42:19,330

9-0, 90th.

823

00:42:19,330 --> 00:42:21,070

90th Troop Carrier Group.

824

00:42:21,070 --> 00:42:22,810

Which, I guarantee,

you haven't heard

825

00:42:22,810 --> 00:42:26,890

too much of in the public since
the Band of Brothers come out.

826

00:42:26,890 --> 00:42:27,450

Yeah.

827

00:42:27,450 --> 00:42:27,950

Yeah.

828

00:42:27,950 --> 00:42:31,030

829

00:42:31,030 --> 00:42:33,940

What else would you want

a younger generation

830

00:42:33,940 --> 00:42:39,390

to know about what it is

that you saw during the war

831

00:42:39,390 --> 00:42:42,540

and what it is that you'd

want them to understand

832

00:42:42,540 --> 00:42:46,140
about the Holocaust survivors
and what they went through

833

00:42:46,140 --> 00:42:49,350
that you witnessed, as well?

834

00:42:49,350 --> 00:42:52,470
One thing I'd like
to have them know

835

00:42:52,470 --> 00:42:58,440
that our experiences over there
and experiences since that time

836

00:42:58,440 --> 00:43:07,800
have made a non-Jewish person
and most of our buddies

837

00:43:07,800 --> 00:43:12,890
that were over
there with us feel

838

00:43:12,890 --> 00:43:15,200
more sympathy for
the Jewish race

839

00:43:15,200 --> 00:43:18,840
and more admiration
for the Jewish race.

840

00:43:18,840 --> 00:43:21,145
And part of the admiration was--

841

00:43:21,145 --> 00:43:22,520
we were trying to
tell ourselves,

842

00:43:22,520 --> 00:43:27,650
why would they go through
that torture and everything

843

00:43:27,650 --> 00:43:29,180
without committing suicide?

844
00:43:29,180 --> 00:43:30,855
We couldn't figure that out.

845
00:43:30,855 --> 00:43:33,680
Well, the answer
came in the fact

846
00:43:33,680 --> 00:43:38,360
that their great faith
and their great will.

847
00:43:38,360 --> 00:43:41,660
And that's kind of
answered the question.

848
00:43:41,660 --> 00:43:43,100
But the younger generation--

849
00:43:43,100 --> 00:43:46,370

850
00:43:46,370 --> 00:43:48,260
my grandson, I
mentioned, took me

851
00:43:48,260 --> 00:43:57,230
to what they call bring and
tell to a first grade class.

852
00:43:57,230 --> 00:43:58,370
And he brought me.

853
00:43:58,370 --> 00:44:02,030
And the other kids brought toys
and different things like that.

854
00:44:02,030 --> 00:44:04,040
He brought me in.

855

00:44:04,040 --> 00:44:07,100

And he says, this is
my grandpa, and he

856

00:44:07,100 --> 00:44:10,790

wants to tell you
something about the war.

857

00:44:10,790 --> 00:44:12,777

Well, they didn't utter a word.

858

00:44:12,777 --> 00:44:14,610

I told him I had to be
careful, because they

859

00:44:14,610 --> 00:44:17,480

were Japanese teachers there.

860

00:44:17,480 --> 00:44:21,320

So I had to be careful not
to mention how bad they were.

861

00:44:21,320 --> 00:44:24,600

But I only mentioned this
bad man out of Germany.

862

00:44:24,600 --> 00:44:25,990

And he took all those people.

863

00:44:25,990 --> 00:44:28,100

And he put them in camps.

864

00:44:28,100 --> 00:44:29,360

And he nearly killed them.

865

00:44:29,360 --> 00:44:31,470

And this was terrible.

866

00:44:31,470 --> 00:44:36,470

But it was a bad war.

867

00:44:36,470 --> 00:44:41,450

And then at the end, a
little Korean first grader

868
00:44:41,450 --> 00:44:47,790
came up to me and
says, who won the war?

869
00:44:47,790 --> 00:44:50,050
I said, well, we did.

870
00:44:50,050 --> 00:44:52,438
He says, cool!

871
00:44:52,438 --> 00:44:55,192
[LAUGHTER]

872
00:44:55,192 --> 00:44:56,570

873
00:44:56,570 --> 00:45:06,490
So anyway-- but yeah, I think
the thing that should be done

874
00:45:06,490 --> 00:45:09,100
now-- and I've offered
to do it over the years--

875
00:45:09,100 --> 00:45:13,720
is to speak to high school
groups and high school history

876
00:45:13,720 --> 00:45:17,210
groups as part of
their curriculum.

877
00:45:17,210 --> 00:45:21,800
And I've never had an
invitation to do so.

878
00:45:21,800 --> 00:45:23,100
It takes time.

879

00:45:23,100 --> 00:45:23,930

It takes time--

880

00:45:23,930 --> 00:45:24,430

It does.

881

00:45:24,430 --> 00:45:25,310

--and understanding.

882

00:45:25,310 --> 00:45:27,140

And sometimes that
understanding isn't

883

00:45:27,140 --> 00:45:31,040

there of what the significance
is of a person's experience.

884

00:45:31,040 --> 00:45:32,340

That could be, too, yeah.

885

00:45:32,340 --> 00:45:34,640

Yeah.

886

00:45:34,640 --> 00:45:38,120

Well, thank you very
much for agreeing

887

00:45:38,120 --> 00:45:41,700

to share those
experiences with us today.

888

00:45:41,700 --> 00:45:43,970

It's much appreciated.

889

00:45:43,970 --> 00:45:46,370

You've filled in a
piece of the puzzle

890

00:45:46,370 --> 00:45:48,600

that we weren't aware of.

891

00:45:48,600 --> 00:45:52,850

And I know that my
colleagues back in the Museum

892
00:45:52,850 --> 00:45:56,330
are also grateful to you
for your contribution.

893
00:45:56,330 --> 00:45:58,940
So in their name,
also, thank you.

894
00:45:58,940 --> 00:46:04,760
And this concludes our interview
with Ernest Dutcher on February

895
00:46:04,760 --> 00:46:08,270
19, 2013 in Encino, California.

896
00:46:08,270 --> 00:46:10,390
You're very welcome.

897
00:46:10,390 --> 00:46:13,000