

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,410
OK.

2
00:00:00,410 --> 00:00:00,910
OK.

3
00:00:00,910 --> 00:00:01,710
Rolling.

4
00:00:01,710 --> 00:00:03,150
OK.

5
00:00:03,150 --> 00:00:06,750
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

6
00:00:06,750 --> 00:00:17,760
interview with Mr. Maurice
"Bugs" Bauer on July 24, 2015,

7
00:00:17,760 --> 00:00:20,410
in Garden City, Long Island.

8
00:00:20,410 --> 00:00:20,910
Yes.

9
00:00:20,910 --> 00:00:23,640
Thank you so much for agreeing
to speak with us today.

10
00:00:23,640 --> 00:00:25,860
Please, thank you.

11
00:00:25,860 --> 00:00:29,310
We're going to talk a lot
about what your life was

12
00:00:29,310 --> 00:00:30,670
like before the war.

13

00:00:30,670 --> 00:00:31,170
Sure.

14
00:00:31,170 --> 00:00:34,020
And then we'll come to
the war experiences.

15
00:00:34,020 --> 00:00:34,620
Right.

16
00:00:34,620 --> 00:00:40,380
So, in order for people to get
a picture of who you were when

17
00:00:40,380 --> 00:00:44,580
you experienced your
military service,

18
00:00:44,580 --> 00:00:47,190
and then after that
what you saw in Germany,

19
00:00:47,190 --> 00:00:49,710
I'm going to start at the
very, very, very beginning.

20
00:00:49,710 --> 00:00:50,340
Thank you.

21
00:00:50,340 --> 00:00:51,030
All right.

22
00:00:51,030 --> 00:00:54,060
Tell me, what was
your name at birth?

23
00:00:54,060 --> 00:00:55,760
When you were born,
what was your--

24
00:00:55,760 --> 00:00:56,790
Yeah.

25

00:00:56,790 --> 00:00:57,850

Oh, please.

26

00:00:57,850 --> 00:01:01,267

My name is, if I can tell
stories, I was in kindergarten.

27

00:01:01,267 --> 00:01:03,600

No, first, let's have your
name and then tell the story.

28

00:01:03,600 --> 00:01:06,600

My name is Maurice "Bugs" Bauer.

29

00:01:06,600 --> 00:01:08,280

When did you get
the nickname "Bugs"?

30

00:01:08,280 --> 00:01:10,600

I got the nickname
"Bugs" in the army.

31

00:01:10,600 --> 00:01:11,100

OK.

32

00:01:11,100 --> 00:01:18,090

And the nickname is for Bugs
Bunny because all of my life,

33

00:01:18,090 --> 00:01:21,270

I mean, from the very beginning,
I'm very fast in everything

34

00:01:21,270 --> 00:01:22,870

that I do.

35

00:01:22,870 --> 00:01:25,950

And again, being in the
army, one of the people

36

00:01:25,950 --> 00:01:28,380

picked up Bugs Bunny.

37

00:01:28,380 --> 00:01:29,760

And they used to
kid me about it,

38

00:01:29,760 --> 00:01:33,150

used to put carrots in my bed, I
remember, in my bunk and things

39

00:01:33,150 --> 00:01:34,840

like that.

40

00:01:34,840 --> 00:01:36,420

And they go on and on.

41

00:01:36,420 --> 00:01:41,070

And when I came back to New York
City, why my name is Maurice,

42

00:01:41,070 --> 00:01:44,880

but I hated it because there
was Morris and Money and all

43

00:01:44,880 --> 00:01:46,190

that kind of stuff.

44

00:01:46,190 --> 00:01:49,710

And one of my teachers,
they said, why don't you

45

00:01:49,710 --> 00:01:53,340

use your nickname "Bugs"
and write under that name.

46

00:01:53,340 --> 00:01:54,240

Is that what you did?

47

00:01:54,240 --> 00:01:56,760

I say to everybody,
like at church, they

48

00:01:56,760 --> 00:01:57,930

had me Maurice Bauer.

49

00:01:57,930 --> 00:01:59,893

And I say, no, Bugs Bauer.

50

00:01:59,893 --> 00:02:00,810

You want to get money?

51

00:02:00,810 --> 00:02:02,790

Use Bugs Bauer.

52

00:02:02,790 --> 00:02:06,085

So tell me again,
what's your birth date?

53

00:02:06,085 --> 00:02:06,960

The date of birthday.

54

00:02:06,960 --> 00:02:10,210

My birthday is July 16, 1922.

55

00:02:10,210 --> 00:02:10,710

OK.

56

00:02:10,710 --> 00:02:13,560

I was 93 just last week.

57

00:02:13,560 --> 00:02:15,870

Well, congratulations
and happy birthday.

58

00:02:15,870 --> 00:02:17,550

And I say thank you every day.

59

00:02:17,550 --> 00:02:18,580

[CHUCKLES]

60

00:02:18,580 --> 00:02:19,080

61

00:02:19,080 --> 00:02:20,290

Where were you born?

62

00:02:20,290 --> 00:02:23,820

I was born in Atlantic City,
Atlantic City hospital, again

63

00:02:23,820 --> 00:02:26,730

July 16, 1922.

64

00:02:26,730 --> 00:02:27,830

In New Jersey?

65

00:02:27,830 --> 00:02:29,980

Oh yeah, Atlantic City,
New Jersey, please.

66

00:02:29,980 --> 00:02:30,480

Yeah.

67

00:02:30,480 --> 00:02:31,740

Beautiful town.

68

00:02:31,740 --> 00:02:32,880

Did you grow up there?

69

00:02:32,880 --> 00:02:34,930

I grew up in Atlantic City, yes.

70

00:02:34,930 --> 00:02:35,670

OK.

71

00:02:35,670 --> 00:02:40,360

Tell me a little bit about
your mother and your father.

72

00:02:40,360 --> 00:02:40,860

OK.

73

00:02:40,860 --> 00:02:42,840

And what were their names?

74

00:02:42,840 --> 00:02:47,160
Well, my mother's name was Rea
and my father's name was Fred.

75
00:02:47,160 --> 00:02:50,880
And both my grandmother
and my mother

76
00:02:50,880 --> 00:02:54,990
owned, and my father, who was a
musician, a piano player, music

77
00:02:54,990 --> 00:03:00,340
arranger, in Atlantic City,
they owned rooming houses.

78
00:03:00,340 --> 00:03:03,360
And we were right by the ocean.

79
00:03:03,360 --> 00:03:06,150
You could just walk up the
block, up on the boardwalk,

80
00:03:06,150 --> 00:03:08,630
and go swimming every day.

81
00:03:08,630 --> 00:03:13,350
And I remember as a child,
there was no such thing as jam

82
00:03:13,350 --> 00:03:15,450
back in the '20s and '30s.

83
00:03:15,450 --> 00:03:18,618
My mother and grandmother
would make me sugar sandwiches

84
00:03:18,618 --> 00:03:20,160
to take down the
beach because that's

85
00:03:20,160 --> 00:03:21,298
all I would eat as a lunch.

86
00:03:21,298 --> 00:03:22,590
You ever have a sugar sandwich?

87
00:03:22,590 --> 00:03:23,500
[CHUCKLES]

88
00:03:23,500 --> 00:03:24,000

89
00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:25,470
No jam?

90
00:03:25,470 --> 00:03:26,550
No.

91
00:03:26,550 --> 00:03:29,640
They didn't have
in jars, at least,

92
00:03:29,640 --> 00:03:31,770
we couldn't afford it
maybe, but I always

93
00:03:31,770 --> 00:03:34,050
remember having the
sandwich with sugar on it.

94
00:03:34,050 --> 00:03:36,158
And I put it in a bag
or something like that.

95
00:03:36,158 --> 00:03:37,950
And I can spend the
whole day on the beach.

96
00:03:37,950 --> 00:03:40,620
All I did was swim and with
my friends and so forth.

97
00:03:40,620 --> 00:03:42,450
Sounds lovely, sounds lovely.

98
00:03:42,450 --> 00:03:43,920
Did you have
brothers and sisters?

99
00:03:43,920 --> 00:03:44,520
No.

100
00:03:44,520 --> 00:03:45,550
You were the only child?

101
00:03:45,550 --> 00:03:47,700
Just me, yeah, the spoiled brat.

102
00:03:47,700 --> 00:03:50,310
Yeah, yeah.

103
00:03:50,310 --> 00:03:53,040
That is a stereotype
about only children.

104
00:03:53,040 --> 00:03:54,480
I don't think it's true.

105
00:03:54,480 --> 00:03:55,260
Oh, I don't know.

106
00:03:55,260 --> 00:03:56,410
[CHUCKLES]

107
00:03:56,410 --> 00:03:56,910

108
00:03:56,910 --> 00:04:02,230
Tell me, did your
father have any other--

109
00:04:02,230 --> 00:04:06,747
did you live from the money
that you made in rooming houses

110

00:04:06,747 --> 00:04:08,580
or was there any other
business the family--

111
00:04:08,580 --> 00:04:12,870
Well, my mother ran the
rooming house and my father

112
00:04:12,870 --> 00:04:15,600
is a piano player,
music arranger.

113
00:04:15,600 --> 00:04:21,089
And I explain it this way
that every year in September,

114
00:04:21,089 --> 00:04:25,290
usually the third week, they
have the beauty pageant,

115
00:04:25,290 --> 00:04:26,940
the Miss America pageant.

116
00:04:26,940 --> 00:04:29,460
And you would be Miss Florida.

117
00:04:29,460 --> 00:04:31,560
And you would come to my
father, you're beautiful,

118
00:04:31,560 --> 00:04:34,050
you're 18-years-old,
you have a piano part.

119
00:04:34,050 --> 00:04:35,610
He would sit at the piano.

120
00:04:35,610 --> 00:04:38,982
And all women have different
ranges, different places

121
00:04:38,982 --> 00:04:40,440
where you're going

to sing, usually

122

00:04:40,440 --> 00:04:42,980
from the low G up to a
B flat, but maybe higher

123

00:04:42,980 --> 00:04:44,050
or a little lower.

124

00:04:44,050 --> 00:04:47,670
And he would figure out
where your voice was good.

125

00:04:47,670 --> 00:04:50,670
Then he would play the
music down in the piano bar.

126

00:04:50,670 --> 00:04:55,290
Then he would tell you to come
back in a couple of days later,

127

00:04:55,290 --> 00:04:58,860
and of course, you'd have \$50
to have a musical arrangement

128

00:04:58,860 --> 00:05:01,140
written for about 20 musicians.

129

00:05:01,140 --> 00:05:04,800
He would write every part from
three trumpets, two trombones,

130

00:05:04,800 --> 00:05:07,800
five saxophones, a rhythm
section, the whole thing.

131

00:05:07,800 --> 00:05:12,420
Copy all the parts, every
note he would write for you so

132

00:05:12,420 --> 00:05:16,260
that when you were on the stage
along with 50 other women,

133
00:05:16,260 --> 00:05:18,270
when you walked out,
the music would play,

134
00:05:18,270 --> 00:05:20,443
you would walk
around and so forth.

135
00:05:20,443 --> 00:05:22,110
And if you were a
singer, he would write

136
00:05:22,110 --> 00:05:24,960
the musical background for you.

137
00:05:24,960 --> 00:05:28,530
And I was thinking this
morning, one of the women

138
00:05:28,530 --> 00:05:30,540
was called Beth Myerson.

139
00:05:30,540 --> 00:05:31,320
That's right.

140
00:05:31,320 --> 00:05:34,410
And you can always
edit it out, OK.

141
00:05:34,410 --> 00:05:36,880
And anyway, Catherine said
I shouldn't talk about her,

142
00:05:36,880 --> 00:05:44,760
but anyway, of all the numerous
women he made arrangements for,

143
00:05:44,760 --> 00:05:49,710
he always got paid his
\$50, except for one.

144

00:05:49,710 --> 00:05:50,910
Oh.

145
00:05:50,910 --> 00:05:55,500
And later on in life, she
was picked up for shoplifting

146
00:05:55,500 --> 00:05:57,070
in New York City.

147
00:05:57,070 --> 00:05:57,570
Hello.

148
00:05:57,570 --> 00:05:58,830
[CHUCKLES]

149
00:05:58,830 --> 00:05:59,790

150
00:05:59,790 --> 00:06:02,580
Well, that's funny or not, but
anyway, I'm from Atlantic City.

151
00:06:02,580 --> 00:06:06,030
And again, that's what
musical arrangers do, right?

152
00:06:06,030 --> 00:06:08,640
All the accompaniment
for you to become a star.

153
00:06:08,640 --> 00:06:09,550
OK.

154
00:06:09,550 --> 00:06:14,610
So what I wanted to
ask then, did your dad

155
00:06:14,610 --> 00:06:18,150
have seasonal work, or
was he seasonal work

156

00:06:18,150 --> 00:06:19,982
in the sense of arranging?

157
00:06:19,982 --> 00:06:20,940
That's a good question.

158
00:06:20,940 --> 00:06:24,600
Yes, we did have seasonal
work because Atlantic City

159
00:06:24,600 --> 00:06:28,530
was a place to go
in July and August.

160
00:06:28,530 --> 00:06:32,640
But when school started,
everybody went home.

161
00:06:32,640 --> 00:06:34,500
And that's why
the beauty pageant

162
00:06:34,500 --> 00:06:38,100
was started the third
week of September,

163
00:06:38,100 --> 00:06:41,160
to have you there
maybe for another week,

164
00:06:41,160 --> 00:06:42,750
to keep the people there.

165
00:06:42,750 --> 00:06:45,150
That was the big
thing for the town.

166
00:06:45,150 --> 00:06:47,440
And he was a piano player.

167
00:06:47,440 --> 00:06:51,570
And he, again, being an
arranger and so forth,

168
00:06:51,570 --> 00:06:53,160
would work in the nightclubs.

169
00:06:53,160 --> 00:06:55,470
Matter of fact, he
was the Clique Club

170
00:06:55,470 --> 00:06:58,080
is still there, that was one
of the clubs he worked at.

171
00:06:58,080 --> 00:07:00,300
And he would go to
work at 10:00 at night,

172
00:07:00,300 --> 00:07:03,445
and come home 2, 3, 4 or
5:00 o'clock in the morning,

173
00:07:03,445 --> 00:07:05,070
because in those
days, if you'd had you

174
00:07:05,070 --> 00:07:06,690
show, you play all night.

175
00:07:06,690 --> 00:07:12,540
And Atlantic City was a
place of very rich people.

176
00:07:12,540 --> 00:07:16,230
All kinds of professions, I
should say, would be in there.

177
00:07:16,230 --> 00:07:18,090
They would come in
3, 4 or 5:00 o'clock

178
00:07:18,090 --> 00:07:20,040
in the morning with their
girlfriends and all,

179

00:07:20,040 --> 00:07:23,310
and you put the Broadway show
on because Mr. So-and-So is here

180

00:07:23,310 --> 00:07:26,580
tonight and so forth then,
and dance and talk about him.

181

00:07:26,580 --> 00:07:27,900
And he loved it.

182

00:07:27,900 --> 00:07:31,440
And I originally wanted
to be a trumpet player,

183

00:07:31,440 --> 00:07:35,280
and I couldn't wait
to become famous

184

00:07:35,280 --> 00:07:38,040
because Harry James
was my favorite trumpet

185

00:07:38,040 --> 00:07:39,060
player in those days.

186

00:07:39,060 --> 00:07:40,230
He was so great.

187

00:07:40,230 --> 00:07:44,130
So, in other words, you were
born into a musical world.

188

00:07:44,130 --> 00:07:45,980
Oh yeah, every second.

189

00:07:45,980 --> 00:07:49,110
Even when I was a
little bitty kid in bed,

190

00:07:49,110 --> 00:07:52,880
my father would come in again, 4

or 5:00 o'clock in the morning.

191

00:07:52,880 --> 00:07:54,760

The little bitty house
we had in those days,

192

00:07:54,760 --> 00:07:57,750

and I would even tell my mother,
guess who was in tonight.

193

00:07:57,750 --> 00:08:02,340

It would be some stars at that
time who would be, again, not

194

00:08:02,340 --> 00:08:06,000

movie stars, but people who were
making records in those days.

195

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:07,340

Yes.

196

00:08:07,340 --> 00:08:07,900

Amazing.

197

00:08:07,900 --> 00:08:08,880

Oh, it was.

198

00:08:08,880 --> 00:08:10,650

Fascinating for a kid.

199

00:08:10,650 --> 00:08:11,670

Oh yeah.

200

00:08:11,670 --> 00:08:12,420

Oh yeah.

201

00:08:12,420 --> 00:08:15,840

Tell me a little bit about
your parents' backgrounds.

202

00:08:15,840 --> 00:08:20,920

Were they American for

many, many generations?

203

00:08:20,920 --> 00:08:21,420

Yeah.

204

00:08:21,420 --> 00:08:24,870

My mother was from Philadelphia
and her original name

205

00:08:24,870 --> 00:08:26,040

was Janney.

206

00:08:26,040 --> 00:08:32,340

And her mother, my grandmother
owned a rooming house

207

00:08:32,340 --> 00:08:36,190

in Atlantic City, again, close
to the boardwalk, the ocean,

208

00:08:36,190 --> 00:08:37,169

and so forth.

209

00:08:37,169 --> 00:08:42,360

And as life went on, my
father, being a musician,

210

00:08:42,360 --> 00:08:44,670

realized that there
was no work for him

211

00:08:44,670 --> 00:08:47,280

in the wintertime
in Atlantic City.

212

00:08:47,280 --> 00:08:50,470

And so they decided they
would go to Florida.

213

00:08:50,470 --> 00:08:54,750

So when I was a
freshman in high school,

214

00:08:54,750 --> 00:08:58,360

it was 1936, why,
they moved to Florida.

215

00:08:58,360 --> 00:09:01,595

And I lived with my grandmother
in her rooming house.

216

00:09:01,595 --> 00:09:02,120

Oh, I see.

217

00:09:02,120 --> 00:09:03,500

So you stayed there.

218

00:09:03,500 --> 00:09:05,160

And so I would live with her.

219

00:09:05,160 --> 00:09:10,350

And I learned how to make
beds and take the garbage out.

220

00:09:10,350 --> 00:09:13,470

And in those days, there was
no dryer or washing machine.

221

00:09:13,470 --> 00:09:16,020

So every day, we were
hanging sheets on the line

222

00:09:16,020 --> 00:09:17,640

and taking them down.

223

00:09:17,640 --> 00:09:21,210

And then she was my mother all
the time I was in high school,

224

00:09:21,210 --> 00:09:21,730

really.

225

00:09:21,730 --> 00:09:22,230

Aha.

226

00:09:22,230 --> 00:09:22,740

Yes.

227

00:09:22,740 --> 00:09:25,452

So your parents lived in
Florida while you stayed up

228

00:09:25,452 --> 00:09:27,910

in Atlantic City with your
mom-- uh, with your grandmother?

229

00:09:27,910 --> 00:09:28,740

Right.

230

00:09:28,740 --> 00:09:30,750

Did you ever visit your
parents in Florida?

231

00:09:30,750 --> 00:09:31,910

No.

232

00:09:31,910 --> 00:09:32,820

No.

233

00:09:32,820 --> 00:09:34,680

And we very seldom
talked on phone

234

00:09:34,680 --> 00:09:39,990

because it was so expensive,
and we had very little money.

235

00:09:39,990 --> 00:09:45,870

Tell me, did your family
have any European connections

236

00:09:45,870 --> 00:09:46,710

that you said?

237

00:09:46,710 --> 00:09:51,580

Had anyone come over from Europe
at all in previous generations?

238
00:09:51,580 --> 00:09:54,300
I know that my
mother talk about--

239
00:09:54,300 --> 00:09:56,160
I beg your pardon,
my grandmother

240
00:09:56,160 --> 00:10:02,950
had cousins, two or three
cousins that were from Europe.

241
00:10:02,950 --> 00:10:04,180
Do you know what part?

242
00:10:04,180 --> 00:10:05,090
I have no idea.

243
00:10:05,090 --> 00:10:05,590
OK.

244
00:10:05,590 --> 00:10:09,040
And she talked about them and
gave me the names, you know,

245
00:10:09,040 --> 00:10:12,370
but as life would be, I'd
never met them with her.

246
00:10:12,370 --> 00:10:13,630
Her name was Janney.

247
00:10:13,630 --> 00:10:15,430
I know she was
from Philadelphia.

248
00:10:15,430 --> 00:10:16,210
Jenny?

249
00:10:16,210 --> 00:10:19,660
J-a-n-n-e-y, her name

was Sophie Janney,

250

00:10:19,660 --> 00:10:21,340
and she was in Philadelphia.

251

00:10:21,340 --> 00:10:23,980
And I do know that
one of her sisters

252

00:10:23,980 --> 00:10:28,060
owned a material
store in Philadelphia.

253

00:10:28,060 --> 00:10:33,610
And they had a son who
was going to be a doctor

254

00:10:33,610 --> 00:10:36,730
and I always wanted to be
Jerry because all I ever heard

255

00:10:36,730 --> 00:10:39,340
about anybody being rich
was Jerry, my cousin.

256

00:10:39,340 --> 00:10:43,430
I hardly ever saw him, maybe
once or twice in my lifetime.

257

00:10:43,430 --> 00:10:46,640
And anyway, and he did became
a doctor when he grew up.

258

00:10:46,640 --> 00:10:48,630
They were saving for him for--

259

00:10:48,630 --> 00:10:49,750
For his schooling.

260

00:10:49,750 --> 00:10:51,580
For his schooling
in those days, yes.

261

00:10:51,580 --> 00:10:54,250

262

00:10:54,250 --> 00:11:00,130

Tell me, did your family have
any religious affiliation?

263

00:11:00,130 --> 00:11:02,830

No.

264

00:11:02,830 --> 00:11:04,480

We never went to church.

265

00:11:04,480 --> 00:11:08,170

And as I can remember, in the
neighborhood where we live

266

00:11:08,170 --> 00:11:10,240

was a Catholic neighborhood.

267

00:11:10,240 --> 00:11:15,310

And I remember seeing nuns in
their habits walking around

268

00:11:15,310 --> 00:11:18,590

and they scared me to death
because they would wear

269

00:11:18,590 --> 00:11:21,610

these black, you know, like--

270

00:11:21,610 --> 00:11:23,740

and I had never
been to the-- there

271

00:11:23,740 --> 00:11:26,080

was a Catholic church
in town, but it was not

272

00:11:26,080 --> 00:11:27,730

in the neighborhood
where we were.

273
00:11:27,730 --> 00:11:29,470
And neither my
father or my mother

274
00:11:29,470 --> 00:11:32,170
ever took me to church
or anything like that.

275
00:11:32,170 --> 00:11:33,830
Were you born Catholic?

276
00:11:33,830 --> 00:11:34,330
Nothing.

277
00:11:34,330 --> 00:11:35,710
Were they non-practicing?

278
00:11:35,710 --> 00:11:36,820
I didn't know anything.

279
00:11:36,820 --> 00:11:38,510
You didn't have any
kind of religious?

280
00:11:38,510 --> 00:11:40,570
But going on with
it, as life would

281
00:11:40,570 --> 00:11:45,310
be, when I came to New
York later on in my life,

282
00:11:45,310 --> 00:11:47,800
why, I met Dr. Charles Colon.

283
00:11:47,800 --> 00:11:51,370
And Dr. Charles Colon was
a Christian scientist.

284
00:11:51,370 --> 00:11:56,230
And anyway, I think

I mentioned that he

285

00:11:56,230 --> 00:11:58,272
became my mentor in every way.

286

00:11:58,272 --> 00:11:59,980
And since I wanted to
be a trumpet player

287

00:11:59,980 --> 00:12:03,000
and he was a trumpet
teacher, and at that time,

288

00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:04,798
why, he was the
number one trumpet

289

00:12:04,798 --> 00:12:05,840
teacher in New York City.

290

00:12:05,840 --> 00:12:09,400
A handsome man in every
way, very large and whole,

291

00:12:09,400 --> 00:12:13,690
and he had a studio on 48th
Street in New York City,

292

00:12:13,690 --> 00:12:15,410
and it was on the third floor.

293

00:12:15,410 --> 00:12:17,410
And the front of the
building is where he taught

294

00:12:17,410 --> 00:12:19,520
and all his students
would wait for him,

295

00:12:19,520 --> 00:12:20,770
which he had by the dozen.

296

00:12:20,770 --> 00:12:23,170

And in the back was
an old, old room

297

00:12:23,170 --> 00:12:26,050

where it was like a junk room,
where I used to practice.

298

00:12:26,050 --> 00:12:29,680

I would go back there and
play my trumpet all day long.

299

00:12:29,680 --> 00:12:31,750

That was what I wanted to do.

300

00:12:31,750 --> 00:12:33,530

I was going to be
a trumpet player.

301

00:12:33,530 --> 00:12:34,030

OK.

302

00:12:34,030 --> 00:12:38,440

And as life would be, I
was injured in the army,

303

00:12:38,440 --> 00:12:42,380

and I was paralyzed on
this side of my face.

304

00:12:42,380 --> 00:12:44,560

Are we talking about
after the war now?

305

00:12:44,560 --> 00:12:46,210

Yes.

306

00:12:46,210 --> 00:12:48,050

I'd like to talk
about before the war.

307

00:12:48,050 --> 00:12:48,550

OK.

308
00:12:48,550 --> 00:12:49,090
A little bit.

309
00:12:49,090 --> 00:12:49,590
All right.

310
00:12:49,590 --> 00:12:52,970
And so you said that he
was a Christian scientist.

311
00:12:52,970 --> 00:12:53,470
Yes.

312
00:12:53,470 --> 00:12:54,998
And you then became one?

313
00:12:54,998 --> 00:12:56,290
Is that what you wanted to say?

314
00:12:56,290 --> 00:12:58,990
The teacher every
Wednesday night,

315
00:12:58,990 --> 00:13:00,620
he would take me
to church with him.

316
00:13:00,620 --> 00:13:01,120
I see.

317
00:13:01,120 --> 00:13:02,828
And I don't know
whether you know or not,

318
00:13:02,828 --> 00:13:04,360
but every Wednesday
night, people

319
00:13:04,360 --> 00:13:08,530
would stand up and tell
them the great things

320
00:13:08,530 --> 00:13:10,300
that the religion
had done for them,

321
00:13:10,300 --> 00:13:12,850
because whatever
it happened to be,

322
00:13:12,850 --> 00:13:15,485
I could pay the milkman
today or whatever happened.

323
00:13:15,485 --> 00:13:17,110
And it was beautiful
just sitting there

324
00:13:17,110 --> 00:13:19,450
because it was very,
very positive everything

325
00:13:19,450 --> 00:13:20,320
that they did.

326
00:13:20,320 --> 00:13:25,900
Yeah, and that, I would say,
when I was first married,

327
00:13:25,900 --> 00:13:28,650
why, my kids grew up in
Christian scientists,

328
00:13:28,650 --> 00:13:29,395
we were there.

329
00:13:29,395 --> 00:13:29,895
OK.

330
00:13:29,895 --> 00:13:32,110
And I keep saying
it all because I

331

00:13:32,110 --> 00:13:35,140
see it as common sense,
Christian Science, you know,

332
00:13:35,140 --> 00:13:35,840
life.

333
00:13:35,840 --> 00:13:36,340
Yes.

334
00:13:36,340 --> 00:13:37,420
OK.

335
00:13:37,420 --> 00:13:38,170
Thank you.

336
00:13:38,170 --> 00:13:40,840
Did you have any Jewish
people in Atlantic City

337
00:13:40,840 --> 00:13:43,900
that you knew at all?

338
00:13:43,900 --> 00:13:45,790
When you were growing up?

339
00:13:45,790 --> 00:13:46,290
Neither.

340
00:13:46,290 --> 00:13:47,720
I don't really.

341
00:13:47,720 --> 00:13:50,110
I'm sure they were,
but with the exception

342
00:13:50,110 --> 00:13:53,110
of seeing the Catholic nuns,
a church meant nothing to me,

343
00:13:53,110 --> 00:13:55,070
or even talking about it.

344
00:13:55,070 --> 00:13:55,570
OK.

345
00:13:55,570 --> 00:13:58,840
I can tell you one funny story,
or we can cut out on the things

346
00:13:58,840 --> 00:13:59,470
there.

347
00:13:59,470 --> 00:14:05,590
That we had Daisy, and
Daisy was our colored maid

348
00:14:05,590 --> 00:14:07,780
who practically brought
me up because she

349
00:14:07,780 --> 00:14:10,540
would come into my mother's
house and my grandmother's

350
00:14:10,540 --> 00:14:14,620
house, and wash the sheets,
and hang them on the lines.

351
00:14:14,620 --> 00:14:17,980
And many, many times
serve me lunch and all

352
00:14:17,980 --> 00:14:20,770
because when you work in a
rooming house, 24 hours a day,

353
00:14:20,770 --> 00:14:22,840
that's all you're doing
is working with roomers,

354
00:14:22,840 --> 00:14:25,215
and talking to them, telling
them where to eat, and to go

355

00:14:25,215 --> 00:14:25,730
and all.

356

00:14:25,730 --> 00:14:28,000
And both my mother
and grandmother

357

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:30,520
were small people and
both them were pretty hard

358

00:14:30,520 --> 00:14:32,340
of hearing people too.

359

00:14:32,340 --> 00:14:34,230
And they were very personable.

360

00:14:34,230 --> 00:14:39,580
And anyway, I remember
being in fourth grade.

361

00:14:39,580 --> 00:14:43,270
And this is in Atlantic City,
and I was in fourth grade.

362

00:14:43,270 --> 00:14:47,260
We were studying colored people.

363

00:14:47,260 --> 00:14:47,770
Really?

364

00:14:47,770 --> 00:14:51,010
I had never heard
the term before.

365

00:14:51,010 --> 00:14:56,380
And I thought there were red,
white, and blue colored people.

366

00:14:56,380 --> 00:14:57,520
OK?

367

00:14:57,520 --> 00:15:00,030

For years I did not know.

368

00:15:00,030 --> 00:15:02,010

When I was in the
high school band,

369

00:15:02,010 --> 00:15:06,420

the only person who came to see
me was Daisy, who was colored.

370

00:15:06,420 --> 00:15:08,550

She would say-- because
she was my mother.

371

00:15:08,550 --> 00:15:10,330

[LAUGHS]

372

00:15:10,330 --> 00:15:10,830

373

00:15:10,830 --> 00:15:16,110

Well, how nice, but how
telling about was-- you know.

374

00:15:16,110 --> 00:15:19,050

That was my family and
then, you know, that was us.

375

00:15:19,050 --> 00:15:19,550

Yeah.

376

00:15:19,550 --> 00:15:20,910

Yeah, yeah.

377

00:15:20,910 --> 00:15:26,010

So it sounds that
your world was really

378

00:15:26,010 --> 00:15:27,760

both music from your father.

379

00:15:27,760 --> 00:15:28,260

Yes.

380

00:15:28,260 --> 00:15:32,300

And then the business from your grandmother and your mother.

381

00:15:32,300 --> 00:15:32,800

Yes, ma'am.

382

00:15:32,800 --> 00:15:33,660

--with the rooming house.

383

00:15:33,660 --> 00:15:34,230

Yes.

384

00:15:34,230 --> 00:15:37,500

As you were going to school in the '30s,

385

00:15:37,500 --> 00:15:41,730

did you talk about current events, and political things,

386

00:15:41,730 --> 00:15:45,270

and events going on in Europe at all?

387

00:15:45,270 --> 00:15:48,420

Did that kind of teaching or discussion go on?

388

00:15:48,420 --> 00:15:51,900

Not very much because again, the only thing

389

00:15:51,900 --> 00:15:55,640

you heard on the radio was "Amos 'n' Andy" at nighttime,

390

00:15:55,640 --> 00:15:57,970

that my grandmother

listened to all the time.

391
00:15:57,970 --> 00:16:01,560
And there were no
newspapers that I read,

392
00:16:01,560 --> 00:16:03,990
or we couldn't afford them,
or whatever it happened to be.

393
00:16:03,990 --> 00:16:07,600
So you really never knew about
anything that was going on.

394
00:16:07,600 --> 00:16:11,910
I remember that the one
thing that scared me to death

395
00:16:11,910 --> 00:16:17,628
was when Lindbergh had
his child kidnapped.

396
00:16:17,628 --> 00:16:18,170
That's right.

397
00:16:18,170 --> 00:16:20,250
And I was a little
child in those days.

398
00:16:20,250 --> 00:16:22,920
I did not know what
that meant, but I

399
00:16:22,920 --> 00:16:25,110
kept hearing it on the radio.

400
00:16:25,110 --> 00:16:28,680
And I remember being
physically scared that somebody

401
00:16:28,680 --> 00:16:29,970
could come and kidnap me.

402

00:16:29,970 --> 00:16:31,920

I remember that was
one part of my--

403

00:16:31,920 --> 00:16:36,210

and one other thing that
happened to me was that every

404

00:16:36,210 --> 00:16:39,180

movie I went to, we used to go
to the movies for \$.10 and see

405

00:16:39,180 --> 00:16:40,470

three movies.

406

00:16:40,470 --> 00:16:44,030

And were cowboys, OK?

407

00:16:44,030 --> 00:16:48,570

And so what do boys want-- girls
want dolls, but boys want, OK?

408

00:16:48,570 --> 00:16:49,140

Little guns.

409

00:16:49,140 --> 00:16:51,200

Guns and I had a cap gun.

410

00:16:51,200 --> 00:16:52,200

OK.

411

00:16:52,200 --> 00:16:55,788

But I had no place to put it.

412

00:16:55,788 --> 00:16:56,580

You had no holster.

413

00:16:56,580 --> 00:16:58,530

And in the movies,
they had a holster.

414

00:16:58,530 --> 00:16:59,700
That's right.

415
00:16:59,700 --> 00:17:01,740
And so I wanted a holster.

416
00:17:01,740 --> 00:17:06,990
And being me, I said, grey
mom, in grey mom's house,

417
00:17:06,990 --> 00:17:10,530
in the middle of the
house, she has, I remember,

418
00:17:10,530 --> 00:17:13,079
the kitchen was on the
outside of the house,

419
00:17:13,079 --> 00:17:16,690
and you open the door, right
there was a closet with all

420
00:17:16,690 --> 00:17:17,700
the linens in.

421
00:17:17,700 --> 00:17:21,760
This three story house, 20
some rooms was in there.

422
00:17:21,760 --> 00:17:24,180
And so I said, I'll
bet if I go in there,

423
00:17:24,180 --> 00:17:26,900
I can find something
to make a holster.

424
00:17:26,900 --> 00:17:27,839
OK?

425
00:17:27,839 --> 00:17:29,250
And so I went there.

426

00:17:29,250 --> 00:17:32,250

Problem was it was no
light in the closet.

427

00:17:32,250 --> 00:17:35,030

Nine years old,
so what did I do?

428

00:17:35,030 --> 00:17:35,630

Oh my.

429

00:17:35,630 --> 00:17:36,130

Yes.

430

00:17:36,130 --> 00:17:37,650

You took a match?

431

00:17:37,650 --> 00:17:39,100

Yes and--

432

00:17:39,100 --> 00:17:40,070

You tell me.

433

00:17:40,070 --> 00:17:41,130

A candle.

434

00:17:41,130 --> 00:17:42,390

Oh, my gosh.

435

00:17:42,390 --> 00:17:44,230

And put it in there.

436

00:17:44,230 --> 00:17:45,940

And guess what happened?

437

00:17:45,940 --> 00:17:46,620

Tell me.

438

00:17:46,620 --> 00:17:53,460

Within 10 seconds, boom,
and when I think back of it,

439

00:17:53,460 --> 00:17:57,630

I just can't believe it
because I was nine, I remember.

440

00:17:57,630 --> 00:18:00,900

About yea big, and I
knew that where we were,

441

00:18:00,900 --> 00:18:03,600

we were on a street
called Westminster Avenue,

442

00:18:03,600 --> 00:18:09,180

and that was in between New
York and Kentucky Avenue.

443

00:18:09,180 --> 00:18:13,350

And we were here, and the street
went like this, like that over.

444

00:18:13,350 --> 00:18:18,360

And over here on New
York Avenue was a place

445

00:18:18,360 --> 00:18:22,500

where you could reach up
and pull a pin down where

446

00:18:22,500 --> 00:18:24,420

the firemen would come.

447

00:18:24,420 --> 00:18:26,350

And I knew that that was there.

448

00:18:26,350 --> 00:18:30,970

I ran there, nine years
old, ran there by myself.

449

00:18:30,970 --> 00:18:34,050

I couldn't reach the
pin, I was too little.

450

00:18:34,050 --> 00:18:38,010

And a man came up and I
said, please, pull it down.

451

00:18:38,010 --> 00:18:39,300

And I stood there.

452

00:18:39,300 --> 00:18:42,480

I had enough sense to say, they
don't know where the fire is.

453

00:18:42,480 --> 00:18:43,770

How would they know.

454

00:18:43,770 --> 00:18:46,410

And when these enormous trucks
come, even in those days,

455

00:18:46,410 --> 00:18:47,940

come screaming down there.

456

00:18:47,940 --> 00:18:50,280

I went like this, like this,
brought them to the house,

457

00:18:50,280 --> 00:18:51,613

and went like that in the house.

458

00:18:51,613 --> 00:18:54,100

And they went into the
house and put the fire out.

459

00:18:54,100 --> 00:18:57,490

And I remember
after this happened,

460

00:18:57,490 --> 00:18:58,920

I don't know how
bad the fire was.

461

00:18:58,920 --> 00:19:01,295

I don't think it was-- it

didn't burn the house something

462

00:19:01,295 --> 00:19:03,270

like that, but it was a fire.

463

00:19:03,270 --> 00:19:07,980

And I remember the captain

that was there in the uniform.

464

00:19:07,980 --> 00:19:10,080

You can imagine I

was scared to death.

465

00:19:10,080 --> 00:19:13,830

I wasn't crying, but I remember

him saying to my grandmother,

466

00:19:13,830 --> 00:19:14,765

leave him alone.

467

00:19:14,765 --> 00:19:15,640

He knows what he did.

468

00:19:15,640 --> 00:19:19,190

469

00:19:19,190 --> 00:19:19,930

Oh my gosh.

470

00:19:19,930 --> 00:19:20,870

That was something.

471

00:19:20,870 --> 00:19:23,820

And go back, and pardon me, we

have no candles in our houses.

472

00:19:23,820 --> 00:19:25,570

[LAUGHTER]

473

00:19:25,570 --> 00:19:26,150

Ever.

474

00:19:26,150 --> 00:19:27,830

Ever.

475

00:19:27,830 --> 00:19:29,000

My goodness.

476

00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:34,850

So, did the house need
extensive repairs after that?

477

00:19:34,850 --> 00:19:36,018

I don't really know.

478

00:19:36,018 --> 00:19:36,560

I don't know.

479

00:19:36,560 --> 00:19:39,500

I imagine they did,
but I don't remember.

480

00:19:39,500 --> 00:19:41,460

I just remember
having that happen.

481

00:19:41,460 --> 00:19:43,880

Yeah, I was nine a few days ago.

482

00:19:43,880 --> 00:19:48,050

Of course, you know that will
stay in a child's memory.

483

00:19:48,050 --> 00:19:48,570

Forever.

484

00:19:48,570 --> 00:19:49,070

Yeah.

485

00:19:49,070 --> 00:19:50,610

Absolutely.

486

00:19:50,610 --> 00:19:56,420

So tell me what year did
you enter high school?

487
00:19:56,420 --> 00:20:01,370
I started in high school
1936, and I graduated in 1940.

488
00:20:01,370 --> 00:20:07,220
All right, so you graduated high
school when the war had already

489
00:20:07,220 --> 00:20:08,510
started in Europe?

490
00:20:08,510 --> 00:20:10,760
Yes, yes.

491
00:20:10,760 --> 00:20:13,010
And had you heard
much about what

492
00:20:13,010 --> 00:20:14,660
was going on with that war?

493
00:20:14,660 --> 00:20:16,310
Nothing, nothing.

494
00:20:16,310 --> 00:20:22,970
What had happened with me was
when I graduated high school,

495
00:20:22,970 --> 00:20:26,000
I was a trumpet player, and
I guess I was pretty good.

496
00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:28,790
And in Atlantic City,
in the summertime,

497
00:20:28,790 --> 00:20:31,340
to extend the
seasons again, they

498

00:20:31,340 --> 00:20:34,970

had this Coliseum down there,
which is tremendous building,

499

00:20:34,970 --> 00:20:39,400

where they had the Ice
Capades of 1940 and '41.

500

00:20:39,400 --> 00:20:40,190

OK.

501

00:20:40,190 --> 00:20:47,030

And as life would be, why,
the union, Musician's Union,

502

00:20:47,030 --> 00:20:51,590

said that only the musicians
in the union could work there,

503

00:20:51,590 --> 00:20:52,557

number one.

504

00:20:52,557 --> 00:20:54,890

And it turned out to be, they
didn't have enough trumpet

505

00:20:54,890 --> 00:20:55,910

players.

506

00:20:55,910 --> 00:20:58,370

So did you join the
Musician's Union?

507

00:20:58,370 --> 00:21:01,340

And so I didn't know my
father put me in the union.

508

00:21:01,340 --> 00:21:02,520

[CHUCKLES]

509

00:21:02,520 --> 00:21:03,020

510
00:21:03,020 --> 00:21:09,530
And the next thing I know, why,
I have a job playing The Ice

511
00:21:09,530 --> 00:21:11,640
Capades of 1940 and '41.

512
00:21:11,640 --> 00:21:12,390
How cool was that.

513
00:21:12,390 --> 00:21:14,240
And I'm sitting
along with people

514
00:21:14,240 --> 00:21:18,600
from the Philadelphia
Orchestra, men and women.

515
00:21:18,600 --> 00:21:21,530
And we dressed in tuxedos.

516
00:21:21,530 --> 00:21:26,120
And by the way, when you dressed
in a tuxedo in those days,

517
00:21:26,120 --> 00:21:28,070
you went in the
employees entrance.

518
00:21:28,070 --> 00:21:31,670
You didn't go in the front door
of the buildings, pardon me.

519
00:21:31,670 --> 00:21:32,990
Yes.

520
00:21:32,990 --> 00:21:35,660
And every night,
seven days a week,

521
00:21:35,660 --> 00:21:38,600

I played The Ice Capades show.

522

00:21:38,600 --> 00:21:40,910

And while I was
playing there, there

523

00:21:40,910 --> 00:21:45,440

was a fellow called
Jimmy Tambourine, who

524

00:21:45,440 --> 00:21:49,400

was above, I don't know, four
or five years older than me.

525

00:21:49,400 --> 00:21:52,430

And all the rest of the
people were all older people.

526

00:21:52,430 --> 00:21:53,960

I didn't know who they were.

527

00:21:53,960 --> 00:21:56,690

And the music
arrangements were written

528

00:21:56,690 --> 00:22:01,250

for four trumpets
and two trombones,

529

00:22:01,250 --> 00:22:04,760

and we only had two
trumpets and two trombones,

530

00:22:04,760 --> 00:22:08,695

which meant we were playing
constantly, all the time.

531

00:22:08,695 --> 00:22:10,820

He would play first, and
then hit me with his knee,

532

00:22:10,820 --> 00:22:13,730

and I would play first and go

back and forth on the things.

533

00:22:13,730 --> 00:22:16,610

And again, I must have been
good enough to stay with him

534

00:22:16,610 --> 00:22:18,800

because I remember playing
the whole season there.

535

00:22:18,800 --> 00:22:22,910

Now, when you were growing
up and in high school and so,

536

00:22:22,910 --> 00:22:26,530

did you take lessons,
music lessons?

537

00:22:26,530 --> 00:22:28,340

OK.

538

00:22:28,340 --> 00:22:33,980

In my father's band was a
musician called Ziggy Elman.

539

00:22:33,980 --> 00:22:36,170

And Ziggy Elman
had perfect pitch,

540

00:22:36,170 --> 00:22:39,410

and he's 10 years
older than I was.

541

00:22:39,410 --> 00:22:41,720

And every night when my
father, every morning

542

00:22:41,720 --> 00:22:43,220

when to come home--

543

00:22:43,220 --> 00:22:45,020

see, he was talking about Ziggy.

544

00:22:45,020 --> 00:22:48,650

Was so talented, he could
play any instrument,

545

00:22:48,650 --> 00:22:49,850

whatever you needed.

546

00:22:49,850 --> 00:22:52,160

He was a trumpet player, but
if you needed a saxophone,

547

00:22:52,160 --> 00:22:54,860

I remember him saying--
he would go to a Hock Shop

548

00:22:54,860 --> 00:22:56,848

and buy a saxophone for \$20.

549

00:22:56,848 --> 00:22:59,140

And at the end of the month,
he played better saxophone

550

00:22:59,140 --> 00:23:00,860

than saxophone players.

551

00:23:00,860 --> 00:23:02,840

So all I heard was
Ziggy, Ziggy, Ziggy.

552

00:23:02,840 --> 00:23:05,300

And I always wanted to
be Ziggy, Ziggy, Ziggy

553

00:23:05,300 --> 00:23:07,090

because he was so incredible.

554

00:23:07,090 --> 00:23:09,140

And as life would
be, I ended up being

555

00:23:09,140 --> 00:23:12,120

Bugs, which was really crazy.

556
00:23:12,120 --> 00:23:14,870
And I wanted to be
a trumpet player,

557
00:23:14,870 --> 00:23:16,970
and I wanted to be
the world's greatest.

558
00:23:16,970 --> 00:23:19,550
And as the story goes
with me, anyway, we

559
00:23:19,550 --> 00:23:22,190
have the Million Dollar Pier
and the Steel Pier in Atlantic

560
00:23:22,190 --> 00:23:26,810
City, and while I was in high
school, my senior year in 1940,

561
00:23:26,810 --> 00:23:29,970
my father came home one
night and said to me,

562
00:23:29,970 --> 00:23:32,690
I want you to come to the
Million Dollar Pier tomorrow

563
00:23:32,690 --> 00:23:34,820
and there's a new
band playing there.

564
00:23:34,820 --> 00:23:36,110
I want you to hear it.

565
00:23:36,110 --> 00:23:38,250
I said, OK.

566
00:23:38,250 --> 00:23:41,420
So we went down and
listened to the band.

567

00:23:41,420 --> 00:23:44,690

Nobody was dancing,
everybody was standing there.

568

00:23:44,690 --> 00:23:46,310

And when they finished a song--

569

00:23:46,310 --> 00:23:47,134

[CLAPPING]

570

00:23:47,134 --> 00:23:47,960

571

00:23:47,960 --> 00:23:49,025

By the hundreds.

572

00:23:49,025 --> 00:23:51,778

God, I had never heard
anything like that.

573

00:23:51,778 --> 00:23:53,570

And when I came home,
I said to my father--

574

00:23:53,570 --> 00:23:54,640

he said, I know.

575

00:23:54,640 --> 00:23:55,640

And I said, what's that?

576

00:23:55,640 --> 00:23:57,950

He said, that's
called clarinet lead.

577

00:23:57,950 --> 00:24:00,140

And what it was
in those days, you

578

00:24:00,140 --> 00:24:02,720

had five saxophones,
three trumpets, two drums,

579

00:24:02,720 --> 00:24:05,990

rhythm section,
but the saxophones

580

00:24:05,990 --> 00:24:08,060

were about here, but
with the clarinet

581

00:24:08,060 --> 00:24:10,130

you could play octaves higher.

582

00:24:10,130 --> 00:24:12,410

And so Glenn Miller
came up with the idea

583

00:24:12,410 --> 00:24:17,660

of making the clarinet the
melody, then alto, alto, tenor,

584

00:24:17,660 --> 00:24:20,510

and the tenor down here
playing the melody.

585

00:24:20,510 --> 00:24:23,830

So you heard the melody
in an inactive part.

586

00:24:23,830 --> 00:24:26,260

Nobody had ever
done that before.

587

00:24:26,260 --> 00:24:28,810

And when people
heard that sound,

588

00:24:28,810 --> 00:24:32,440

and again, the musicians
he had, he rehearsed,

589

00:24:32,440 --> 00:24:34,630

pardon me, the hell out
of them in those days.

590

00:24:34,630 --> 00:24:36,970

You would work all
night and the next day,

591

00:24:36,970 --> 00:24:39,820

you were in Philadelphia,
and you'd rehearse all day,

592

00:24:39,820 --> 00:24:41,530

and play, and
rehearse all night,

593

00:24:41,530 --> 00:24:42,690

and then you moved around.

594

00:24:42,690 --> 00:24:44,320

So they were always rehearsing.

595

00:24:44,320 --> 00:24:48,620

He had the right combination
in that saxophone section

596

00:24:48,620 --> 00:24:50,710

that no one ever duplicated.

597

00:24:50,710 --> 00:24:52,510

But my question was, excuse me.

598

00:24:52,510 --> 00:24:54,430

My question was this,
how did you learn?

599

00:24:54,430 --> 00:24:56,410

Did you get lessons
or did you pick it up?

600

00:24:56,410 --> 00:24:57,700

No, that's what it was.

601

00:24:57,700 --> 00:24:59,500

I came home and
said to my father,

602
00:24:59,500 --> 00:25:03,170
I want to be able
to do what he did.

603
00:25:03,170 --> 00:25:05,320
And he said, my
father's an arranger.

604
00:25:05,320 --> 00:25:07,990
So every night at
supper time, he

605
00:25:07,990 --> 00:25:10,840
would write out for
me how to learn.

606
00:25:10,840 --> 00:25:14,480
For example, a trumpet is
in B-flat, what's that mean?

607
00:25:14,480 --> 00:25:17,470
It means that here
is C on the piano.

608
00:25:17,470 --> 00:25:20,320
When a trumpet player
is in B-flat, he's here.

609
00:25:20,320 --> 00:25:24,820
When he plays C, he's not
playing C. He's playing A-flat.

610
00:25:24,820 --> 00:25:28,540
And now you have to raise him
up a B-flat, I beg your pardon,

611
00:25:28,540 --> 00:25:30,170
you'd have to raise
him up a tone.

612
00:25:30,170 --> 00:25:33,910
So when you write for a trumpet,

if you want him to play a C,

613
00:25:33,910 --> 00:25:36,280
you have to write a D for him.

614
00:25:36,280 --> 00:25:40,660
And alto saxophone is six
notes lower, it's an E-flat.

615
00:25:40,660 --> 00:25:44,050
A B-flat tenor saxophone
is 9 notes lower.

616
00:25:44,050 --> 00:25:48,405
And a baritone saxophone is
six notes and an octave lower.

617
00:25:48,405 --> 00:25:49,780
And so you have
to, when you were

618
00:25:49,780 --> 00:25:51,520
learning to write for
these instruments,

619
00:25:51,520 --> 00:25:53,350
learn to transpose music.

620
00:25:53,350 --> 00:25:53,850
I see.

621
00:25:53,850 --> 00:25:55,720
Besides learning harmony.

622
00:25:55,720 --> 00:25:57,655
So you learnt all
this from your dad.

623
00:25:57,655 --> 00:25:58,510
From my dad.

624
00:25:58,510 --> 00:26:00,760

He showed me every
day when I came home,

625
00:26:00,760 --> 00:26:02,200
he would show me how to do it.

626
00:26:02,200 --> 00:26:04,120
And what did the
whole thing, again,

627
00:26:04,120 --> 00:26:07,810
was Glenn Miller, because the
first thing I learned from him

628
00:26:07,810 --> 00:26:13,120
was to write the Glenn Miller a
moonlight serenade theme song.

629
00:26:13,120 --> 00:26:15,580
And I played that.

630
00:26:15,580 --> 00:26:19,100
In the band in high school, we
had a dance band that I was in.

631
00:26:19,100 --> 00:26:21,850
And again, it was the same
musicians, three trumpets,

632
00:26:21,850 --> 00:26:23,350
trombones, and saxophones.

633
00:26:23,350 --> 00:26:27,970
And we were all, you know, like
14, 15, 16, 17-years-old kids.

634
00:26:27,970 --> 00:26:33,610
And from 12:00 noon until 1:30,
why, you eat lunch, and then

635
00:26:33,610 --> 00:26:34,990
you would go into the gym.

636

00:26:34,990 --> 00:26:38,620

And my high school was in
Atlantic City, is gone now,

637

00:26:38,620 --> 00:26:40,240

but it was a magnificent place.

638

00:26:40,240 --> 00:26:42,520

It was a park in
front of it and it

639

00:26:42,520 --> 00:26:45,440

was a building went this way
with a clock up in front of it

640

00:26:45,440 --> 00:26:45,940

there.

641

00:26:45,940 --> 00:26:46,810

What was the name
of your High School?

642

00:26:46,810 --> 00:26:48,220

Atlantic City High School.

643

00:26:48,220 --> 00:26:53,620

It was just gorgeous and pardon
me, the casinos tore it down,

644

00:26:53,620 --> 00:26:55,280

made it a parking lot.

645

00:26:55,280 --> 00:26:58,030

And when I saw that, I could not
believe, that really hurt me.

646

00:26:58,030 --> 00:27:00,340

But anyway, and that
was the beginning

647

00:27:00,340 --> 00:27:03,400

of me learning how to write.

648
00:27:03,400 --> 00:27:05,410
And it took not
days, it took years

649
00:27:05,410 --> 00:27:08,260
to listen in here
because when you,

650
00:27:08,260 --> 00:27:10,820
as a trumpet player played,
you didn't play like,

651
00:27:10,820 --> 00:27:11,740
he played trumpet.

652
00:27:11,740 --> 00:27:14,670
Or he played trumpet,
everybody a differently.

653
00:27:14,670 --> 00:27:16,180
And you can tell, ah?

654
00:27:16,180 --> 00:27:18,970
Well, you play differently,
and so you influence

655
00:27:18,970 --> 00:27:20,500
the way the band sounds.

656
00:27:20,500 --> 00:27:24,550
And so having better musicians
meant the band was better

657
00:27:24,550 --> 00:27:25,900
in every way.

658
00:27:25,900 --> 00:27:29,080
And because I
became an arranger,

659
00:27:29,080 --> 00:27:32,470

I would come in and
arrange for the band.

660
00:27:32,470 --> 00:27:34,210
I would get to know
the musicians, who

661
00:27:34,210 --> 00:27:36,940
the great guys were, who the
first trumpet players were,

662
00:27:36,940 --> 00:27:38,560
who the great drummers were.

663
00:27:38,560 --> 00:27:42,280
And that's how I got to learn
to write better and better all

664
00:27:42,280 --> 00:27:42,870
the time.

665
00:27:42,870 --> 00:27:43,370
Yes.

666
00:27:43,370 --> 00:27:46,120
So when you graduated
high school,

667
00:27:46,120 --> 00:27:49,300
was there any talk of going
on to higher education,

668
00:27:49,300 --> 00:27:52,197
or was it the world of music is
opening up and I'm going to go?

669
00:27:52,197 --> 00:27:52,780
Really bright.

670
00:27:52,780 --> 00:27:53,820
I have to tell you.

671

00:27:53,820 --> 00:27:57,700

No one in my high school
in 1940 went to college.

672

00:27:57,700 --> 00:27:58,750

OK.

673

00:27:58,750 --> 00:28:01,060

I didn't even know what
the word college meant.

674

00:28:01,060 --> 00:28:05,150

All I knew was that I was
going to be a trumpet player.

675

00:28:05,150 --> 00:28:07,660

And I was going to be the
world's best trumpet player.

676

00:28:07,660 --> 00:28:10,870

And both my mother
and father said to me,

677

00:28:10,870 --> 00:28:13,570

Atlantic City is
two months of work

678

00:28:13,570 --> 00:28:15,160

and then there's no more work.

679

00:28:15,160 --> 00:28:17,170

You're going to New York.

680

00:28:17,170 --> 00:28:18,847

So they were OK
with you doing this?

681

00:28:18,847 --> 00:28:19,930

They were happy that you--

682

00:28:19,930 --> 00:28:21,440

They kicked me out.

683

00:28:21,440 --> 00:28:23,080

OK.

684

00:28:23,080 --> 00:28:27,010

Here we go, my father said to
me, you're going to New York

685

00:28:27,010 --> 00:28:28,130

next week.

686

00:28:28,130 --> 00:28:30,460

And as luck would have
it with me, I can't say,

687

00:28:30,460 --> 00:28:31,900

but my life's full of luck.

688

00:28:31,900 --> 00:28:35,860

There was a boy
called Joe Meredith

689

00:28:35,860 --> 00:28:38,740

who walked past my
grandmother's house one day.

690

00:28:38,740 --> 00:28:40,810

And she was taking
out ashes because they

691

00:28:40,810 --> 00:28:42,030

had coal stoves in those.

692

00:28:42,030 --> 00:28:43,080

Remember the big cans?

693

00:28:43,080 --> 00:28:44,230

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

694

00:28:44,230 --> 00:28:46,510

And he saw her and he
came over and helped her.

695

00:28:46,510 --> 00:28:49,810

And he said to her, who was it
playing trumpet all the time?

696

00:28:49,810 --> 00:28:51,310

Because I play trumpet.

697

00:28:51,310 --> 00:28:53,500

And so I met Joe Meredith.

698

00:28:53,500 --> 00:28:56,810

And he was an usher in a movie
theater called The Stanley

699

00:28:56,810 --> 00:28:57,310

Theater.

700

00:28:57,310 --> 00:28:59,650

I think it's still on the
boardwalk in Atlantic City,

701

00:28:59,650 --> 00:29:01,570

and we were a half a block away.

702

00:29:01,570 --> 00:29:03,790

And so we became
really good friends,

703

00:29:03,790 --> 00:29:07,120

and I saw all the movies for
nothing, which was incredible.

704

00:29:07,120 --> 00:29:12,340

And anyway, and as life
would be, why, after a while,

705

00:29:12,340 --> 00:29:15,850

I was playing the
show in the '40s,

706

00:29:15,850 --> 00:29:17,650

why, I'm walking

on the boardwalk.

707

00:29:17,650 --> 00:29:20,350

Who's walking the
boardwalk but Joe Meredith.

708

00:29:20,350 --> 00:29:22,510

He's living where?

709

00:29:22,510 --> 00:29:24,570

In New York City.

710

00:29:24,570 --> 00:29:27,630

And I said to him, I'm
coming to New York.

711

00:29:27,630 --> 00:29:29,100

And he said, incredible.

712

00:29:29,100 --> 00:29:30,630

I said, really?

713

00:29:30,630 --> 00:29:33,083

I said, I've never
been on a bus before.

714

00:29:33,083 --> 00:29:34,500

And I said, I'm
going to New York.

715

00:29:34,500 --> 00:29:38,170

And he said, we own
an apartment house.

716

00:29:38,170 --> 00:29:40,770

You'll live in the
apartment house with us.

717

00:29:40,770 --> 00:29:43,800

And he said, I'll
talk to my mother.

718

00:29:43,800 --> 00:29:45,870

And he said, you
can stay with us,

719

00:29:45,870 --> 00:29:47,680

and we'll feed you
and everything.

720

00:29:47,680 --> 00:29:49,620

And so I said, oh my God.

721

00:29:49,620 --> 00:29:50,490

That's incredible.

722

00:29:50,490 --> 00:29:52,030

I can't believe you.

723

00:29:52,030 --> 00:29:55,980

And he said, I have to tell you,
though, I have two brothers.

724

00:29:55,980 --> 00:29:58,240

So you'll sleep with the
three of us in the bed.

725

00:29:58,240 --> 00:29:58,740

Oh my God.

726

00:29:58,740 --> 00:30:00,500

[CHUCKLES]

727

00:30:00,500 --> 00:30:01,620

Hello.

728

00:30:01,620 --> 00:30:04,990

And what he didn't tell me
was, here was a block, right?

729

00:30:04,990 --> 00:30:05,490

Yes.

730

00:30:05,490 --> 00:30:08,400

And we were here, and over
in this corner of the block

731
00:30:08,400 --> 00:30:10,950
was an L that went all
day and night long.

732
00:30:10,950 --> 00:30:11,640
Oh my gosh.

733
00:30:11,640 --> 00:30:12,360
OK.

734
00:30:12,360 --> 00:30:14,770
So between people
snoring, right?

735
00:30:14,770 --> 00:30:17,790
And the L going
every 20 minutes.

736
00:30:17,790 --> 00:30:19,500
You didn't get much
sleep, did you?

737
00:30:19,500 --> 00:30:21,960
Not for the first month,
that was for sure. yeah.

738
00:30:21,960 --> 00:30:23,400
And where it was, all right.

739
00:30:23,400 --> 00:30:27,210
So, where was the apartment
located, in Manhattan or West?

740
00:30:27,210 --> 00:30:30,640
No, no.

741
00:30:30,640 --> 00:30:32,270
You know, I can't remember it.

742

00:30:32,270 --> 00:30:34,940

I have to look up in
my telephone books.

743

00:30:34,940 --> 00:30:36,170

In Queens?

744

00:30:36,170 --> 00:30:39,380

Was it in Queens or in Brooklyn?

745

00:30:39,380 --> 00:30:40,940

No.

746

00:30:40,940 --> 00:30:43,640

It was outside in New York City.

747

00:30:43,640 --> 00:30:48,630

I had to take a train in
to get it in New York City.

748

00:30:48,630 --> 00:30:51,170

What's one of the towns
outside of New York City?

749

00:30:51,170 --> 00:30:52,430

On which side?

750

00:30:52,430 --> 00:30:56,940

On New Jersey side
or New York side or?

751

00:30:56,940 --> 00:30:59,430

I think from the Jersey side.

752

00:30:59,430 --> 00:31:02,580

Was it Hackensack?

753

00:31:02,580 --> 00:31:03,080

Where?

754

00:31:03,080 --> 00:31:03,730

Hackensack.

755
00:31:03,730 --> 00:31:04,440
Oh, no, no.

756
00:31:04,440 --> 00:31:07,310
Was close to the city.

757
00:31:07,310 --> 00:31:11,690
Anyway, that's where
I live for a while

758
00:31:11,690 --> 00:31:15,800
when I first came
to New York City.

759
00:31:15,800 --> 00:31:17,130
Did you get a job?

760
00:31:17,130 --> 00:31:17,630
Pardon me?

761
00:31:17,630 --> 00:31:18,500
Did you get a job?

762
00:31:18,500 --> 00:31:21,160

763
00:31:21,160 --> 00:31:24,130
When I first went up there, no.

764
00:31:24,130 --> 00:31:30,670
I had \$900, and I
had made the \$900.

765
00:31:30,670 --> 00:31:34,810
I didn't know it, but I had
worked as a trumpet player

766
00:31:34,810 --> 00:31:38,660
in Atlantic City playing
at one of the hotels,

767

00:31:38,660 --> 00:31:43,150

and we got \$1 an
hour for playing.

768

00:31:43,150 --> 00:31:45,430

And I was working
there six hours a day,

769

00:31:45,430 --> 00:31:48,370

three hours in the afternoon,
and three hours a night.

770

00:31:48,370 --> 00:31:51,580

And with the money
I made, I just

771

00:31:51,580 --> 00:31:53,650

gave it to, the check,
I would bring it home,

772

00:31:53,650 --> 00:31:55,110

give it to my mother.

773

00:31:55,110 --> 00:31:56,110

I didn't need any money.

774

00:31:56,110 --> 00:31:57,470

They gave me what I--

775

00:31:57,470 --> 00:31:58,600

like, a quarter a day.

776

00:31:58,600 --> 00:32:00,082

[CHUCKLES]

777

00:32:00,082 --> 00:32:01,070

778

00:32:01,070 --> 00:32:05,750

And I worked there
during this summer.

779

00:32:05,750 --> 00:32:11,390

And so, again, I had \$900 when I
first moved into New York City.

780

00:32:11,390 --> 00:32:13,360

So that was a lot
of money to live.

781

00:32:13,360 --> 00:32:18,910

And when I lived with Joe
Meredith and his family,

782

00:32:18,910 --> 00:32:22,600

they had a porch in the
front of the apartment house,

783

00:32:22,600 --> 00:32:24,490

and we lived on
the second floor,

784

00:32:24,490 --> 00:32:29,170

and there was a couch
there that was my bed.

785

00:32:29,170 --> 00:32:33,880

And it was very expensive, it
was \$9 a week, room and board.

786

00:32:33,880 --> 00:32:34,510

Oh my goodness.

787

00:32:34,510 --> 00:32:35,010

OK.

788

00:32:35,010 --> 00:32:36,200

[LAUGHTER]

789

00:32:36,200 --> 00:32:36,700

790

00:32:36,700 --> 00:32:40,080

\$36 a month to live.

791
00:32:40,080 --> 00:32:42,610
I would like-- well, that
was-- in those days, too,

792
00:32:42,610 --> 00:32:43,300
that was a lot.

793
00:32:43,300 --> 00:32:45,790
They were thrilled to death
to have somebody there, number

794
00:32:45,790 --> 00:32:47,590
one, you know.

795
00:32:47,590 --> 00:32:49,030
And I was apparently a fun guy.

796
00:32:49,030 --> 00:32:53,770
And as it turned out to be,
I knew what I want to do,

797
00:32:53,770 --> 00:32:55,210
trumpet wise.

798
00:32:55,210 --> 00:32:59,510
And at that time,
there were many, many--

799
00:32:59,510 --> 00:33:01,450
not many, but there
were 1/2 a dozen

800
00:33:01,450 --> 00:33:05,290
musicians in New York City
who were the best trumpet

801
00:33:05,290 --> 00:33:06,970
teachers in New York City.

802
00:33:06,970 --> 00:33:09,280
And I took lessons

from each one of them,

803

00:33:09,280 --> 00:33:11,170
and I didn't like any of them.

804

00:33:11,170 --> 00:33:12,340
That's me.

805

00:33:12,340 --> 00:33:15,180
And so, when I was
living with Joe Meredith,

806

00:33:15,180 --> 00:33:16,270
he played trumpet too.

807

00:33:16,270 --> 00:33:19,480
And he said, I study
with Charles Colin.

808

00:33:19,480 --> 00:33:20,357
And I said, yeah.

809

00:33:20,357 --> 00:33:22,690
He said, why don't you take
a lesson with Charles Colin?

810

00:33:22,690 --> 00:33:25,040
And I said, well, I want to
try this one and this one,

811

00:33:25,040 --> 00:33:27,130
all like that kind of
thing, which I did.

812

00:33:27,130 --> 00:33:29,478
And so I said OK, there's
a month, two months,

813

00:33:29,478 --> 00:33:30,020
three months.

814

00:33:30,020 --> 00:33:31,062

I don't remember, though.

815

00:33:31,062 --> 00:33:32,680

So I went to meet Charles Colin.

816

00:33:32,680 --> 00:33:35,100

And from that moment on,
like, he was my father

817

00:33:35,100 --> 00:33:36,550

and I was his son.

818

00:33:36,550 --> 00:33:39,520

We got together, and
as I was saying before,

819

00:33:39,520 --> 00:33:42,280

why, he had written a
book, and he showed me

820

00:33:42,280 --> 00:33:44,980

the book in the first page
with diminished chords.

821

00:33:44,980 --> 00:33:47,270

And I took my pen out,
or whatever we had, said,

822

00:33:47,270 --> 00:33:47,853

this is wrong.

823

00:33:47,853 --> 00:33:48,895

He said, how do you know?

824

00:33:48,895 --> 00:33:50,650

And I said because I'm
a musical arranger.

825

00:33:50,650 --> 00:33:51,900

What's a musical arranger?

826

00:33:51,900 --> 00:33:53,275

I said, I know
all about harmony,

827
00:33:53,275 --> 00:33:54,700
and chords, and
things like that.

828
00:33:54,700 --> 00:33:57,110
And he said, oh,
OK, fix it for me.

829
00:33:57,110 --> 00:34:00,760
And at that time,
Charlie Barnett

830
00:34:00,760 --> 00:34:03,800
was a band that was
just getting started.

831
00:34:03,800 --> 00:34:08,469
And I talked to a fellow called
Shorty Rogers who at that time

832
00:34:08,469 --> 00:34:11,590
was a big star and trumpet
player in New York City.

833
00:34:11,590 --> 00:34:16,570
And anyway, he said
to me, why don't you

834
00:34:16,570 --> 00:34:20,559
go over and talk to a couple
of different bandleaders

835
00:34:20,559 --> 00:34:22,010
at Roseland.

836
00:34:22,010 --> 00:34:23,920
And I said, sure.

837
00:34:23,920 --> 00:34:25,570
So I went over to Roseland.

838
00:34:25,570 --> 00:34:29,980
And I would go to the bandleader
and say, my name is Bugs Bauer,

839
00:34:29,980 --> 00:34:31,269
and I'm a music arranger.

840
00:34:31,269 --> 00:34:35,107
But Bug, you only got
your nickname Bugs

841
00:34:35,107 --> 00:34:36,190
when you were in the army.

842
00:34:36,190 --> 00:34:37,060
In the army, yeah.

843
00:34:37,060 --> 00:34:38,602
You're talking about
before the army?

844
00:34:38,602 --> 00:34:39,219
Absolutely.

845
00:34:39,219 --> 00:34:41,530
I thought you were talking
about before the army.

846
00:34:41,530 --> 00:34:46,330
Oh, just be the army I went up
there and just studied trumpet

847
00:34:46,330 --> 00:34:49,179
with Charles Colin.

848
00:34:49,179 --> 00:34:50,560
That's all I can remember.

849
00:34:50,560 --> 00:34:51,639
Did you have a job?

850

00:34:51,639 --> 00:34:52,570

Did you get a job?

851

00:34:52,570 --> 00:34:54,650

No, no.

852

00:34:54,650 --> 00:34:55,960

No, I didn't work at all.

853

00:34:55,960 --> 00:34:57,460

No, I didn't make it, no way.

854

00:34:57,460 --> 00:35:00,990

My mother sent me the money,
sent me a check each month.

855

00:35:00,990 --> 00:35:01,490

Right.

856

00:35:01,490 --> 00:35:02,100

OK.

857

00:35:02,100 --> 00:35:04,750

And we never went out and never
bought anything, you know.

858

00:35:04,750 --> 00:35:08,130

I remember, my bag that I went
to New York City was this big.

859

00:35:08,130 --> 00:35:11,050

I had a pair of shoes in it
and maybe one underwear or two

860

00:35:11,050 --> 00:35:11,620

underwear.

861

00:35:11,620 --> 00:35:12,850

A pair of stockings.

862

00:35:12,850 --> 00:35:16,030

So was the purpose of your
going to New York to learn more

863
00:35:16,030 --> 00:35:16,990
or to work?

864
00:35:16,990 --> 00:35:17,950
No, to learn.

865
00:35:17,950 --> 00:35:18,610
To learn?

866
00:35:18,610 --> 00:35:19,110
Yes.

867
00:35:19,110 --> 00:35:23,020
So right when you finished
high school, your parents said,

868
00:35:23,020 --> 00:35:24,740
you need to learn
more about trumpet.

869
00:35:24,740 --> 00:35:26,282
Yes, there's nobody
in Atlantic City.

870
00:35:26,282 --> 00:35:27,730
I had studied,
yeah, you're right.

871
00:35:27,730 --> 00:35:30,670
I had studied in Atlantic City.

872
00:35:30,670 --> 00:35:37,900
There were Italian,
a couple musicians.

873
00:35:37,900 --> 00:35:40,060
Marintino was his name.

874
00:35:40,060 --> 00:35:40,655

Yes.

875

00:35:40,655 --> 00:35:44,100

Marantino was a trumpet
teacher who was there,

876

00:35:44,100 --> 00:35:47,230

who was somebody
certainly in his 60s

877

00:35:47,230 --> 00:35:48,760

when I studied with him.

878

00:35:48,760 --> 00:35:52,480

And he was teaching me how to
play trumpet, and how to read,

879

00:35:52,480 --> 00:35:53,440

and so forth.

880

00:35:53,440 --> 00:35:59,350

And I was good enough as I
said to play professionally.

881

00:35:59,350 --> 00:36:03,280

And my father at the
time was working, again,

882

00:36:03,280 --> 00:36:05,380

in the Clique Club
in Atlantic City.

883

00:36:05,380 --> 00:36:07,000

And I remember he
used to take me

884

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:11,890

in around 10:30, 11:00
o'clock, and have me sit-in

885

00:36:11,890 --> 00:36:13,780

and play the shows.

886

00:36:13,780 --> 00:36:16,030

Because the music
was all written

887

00:36:16,030 --> 00:36:19,040

manuscript and everybody
wrote differently.

888

00:36:19,040 --> 00:36:21,490

It was one thing to
read printed music,

889

00:36:21,490 --> 00:36:24,640

but to read professionally
manuscript music

890

00:36:24,640 --> 00:36:26,470

was a completely
different thing.

891

00:36:26,470 --> 00:36:31,960

And so I used to go with him,
I don't know, a couple of times

892

00:36:31,960 --> 00:36:33,695

a week to go in there.

893

00:36:33,695 --> 00:36:35,610

And this was while you
were in high school?

894

00:36:35,610 --> 00:36:37,270

And play, yes.

895

00:36:37,270 --> 00:36:39,160

And play the shows
there, and that's

896

00:36:39,160 --> 00:36:43,680

how I learned about
life, about you girls.

897

00:36:43,680 --> 00:36:47,940

And one night, I'm
there playing a show,

898

00:36:47,940 --> 00:36:53,150

and I'm playing a girl who's
singing, and turned around it's

899

00:36:53,150 --> 00:36:55,680

a man.

900

00:36:55,680 --> 00:36:57,420

Oh my gosh.

901

00:36:57,420 --> 00:36:58,433

Oh my gosh.

902

00:36:58,433 --> 00:37:00,600

When the show's over, I go
home and talked about it.

903

00:37:00,600 --> 00:37:02,220

My father's laughing.

904

00:37:02,220 --> 00:37:04,560

I never know anything
about things like this.

905

00:37:04,560 --> 00:37:05,900

That was, I was like 18.

906

00:37:05,900 --> 00:37:07,154

[LAUGHS]

907

00:37:07,154 --> 00:37:08,100

908

00:37:08,100 --> 00:37:14,070

Now in your family,
your mom and your dad,

909

00:37:14,070 --> 00:37:15,570

did they ever tell
you how they met?

910
00:37:15,570 --> 00:37:18,410

911
00:37:18,410 --> 00:37:21,110
Yeah.

912
00:37:21,110 --> 00:37:27,490
My grandmother had a rooming
house in Atlantic City,

913
00:37:27,490 --> 00:37:29,350
and he was from Philadelphia.

914
00:37:29,350 --> 00:37:33,260
And he used to
travel because he was

915
00:37:33,260 --> 00:37:35,390
a piano player and an arranger.

916
00:37:35,390 --> 00:37:38,970
He would travel
around the country.

917
00:37:38,970 --> 00:37:42,500
And I had a piece of his luggage
when I came to New York City,

918
00:37:42,500 --> 00:37:46,392
and it had shows that
wherever they would play.

919
00:37:46,392 --> 00:37:47,600
They would play a show from--

920
00:37:47,600 --> 00:37:50,090
so it would be from Cincinnati,
or from Pennsylvania

921

00:37:50,090 --> 00:37:52,380
or, like that, it
was on the luggage.

922
00:37:52,380 --> 00:37:56,060
And he came to Atlantic City
and stayed in the same house

923
00:37:56,060 --> 00:38:00,170
where my mother was living,
and that's how they met.

924
00:38:00,170 --> 00:38:04,340
And my mother was a
very striking person.

925
00:38:04,340 --> 00:38:09,780
And in those days,
why, there were many,

926
00:38:09,780 --> 00:38:12,830
many, many in Atlantic
City, bars, and saloons,

927
00:38:12,830 --> 00:38:14,760
and clubs and things like that.

928
00:38:14,760 --> 00:38:18,620
And I forget what did they call
when you came into the club.

929
00:38:18,620 --> 00:38:22,190
There was a name, she had a
name for somebody like that.

930
00:38:22,190 --> 00:38:23,990
And she was not
one of the girls,

931
00:38:23,990 --> 00:38:27,500
she was the head of the
girls, of the clubs, and she--

932

00:38:27,500 --> 00:38:29,950
OK.

933
00:38:29,950 --> 00:38:31,910
So your mom didn't work
in the rooming house,

934
00:38:31,910 --> 00:38:33,080
she worked in the clubs?

935
00:38:33,080 --> 00:38:35,830
No, no she had a rooming house.

936
00:38:35,830 --> 00:38:37,540
Oh, this was different times.

937
00:38:37,540 --> 00:38:39,360
That's how she-- when
she met my father.

938
00:38:39,360 --> 00:38:39,860
OK.

939
00:38:39,860 --> 00:38:40,360
Yeah.

940
00:38:40,360 --> 00:38:43,500
Did your grandmother approve
of them being together?

941
00:38:43,500 --> 00:38:44,660
I have no idea.

942
00:38:44,660 --> 00:38:45,336
I wasn't there.

943
00:38:45,336 --> 00:38:45,836
[CHUCKLES]

944
00:38:45,836 --> 00:38:46,570
OK.

945
00:38:46,570 --> 00:38:47,390
OK.

946
00:38:47,390 --> 00:38:48,320
But as far as--

947
00:38:48,320 --> 00:38:51,375
there would be some families
that might be more traditional,

948
00:38:51,375 --> 00:38:53,000
who wouldn't have
wanted their daughter

949
00:38:53,000 --> 00:38:54,440
to go out with a musician.

950
00:38:54,440 --> 00:38:56,990
But we're talking
about back in the '30s.

951
00:38:56,990 --> 00:38:59,240
'20s and '30s, and before that.

952
00:38:59,240 --> 00:38:59,740
OK.

953
00:38:59,740 --> 00:39:02,510
I just wanted to
cover that place.

954
00:39:02,510 --> 00:39:05,540
All right, so after you
graduate high school,

955
00:39:05,540 --> 00:39:08,330
your parents tell you you've
got to go to New York to learn--

956
00:39:08,330 --> 00:39:13,100
After I graduated at high
school, that year was the '40s,

957
00:39:13,100 --> 00:39:16,955
and I, again, got this job
playing in the Coliseum,

958
00:39:16,955 --> 00:39:20,450
in the high school where we
played the '40 and '41 Ice

959
00:39:20,450 --> 00:39:21,388
Capades show.

960
00:39:21,388 --> 00:39:22,180
Right, you told me.

961
00:39:22,180 --> 00:39:24,950
And these were,
again, I don't know

962
00:39:24,950 --> 00:39:26,400
how many musicians were there.

963
00:39:26,400 --> 00:39:31,220
But certainly 15, 20,
25 musicians were there,

964
00:39:31,220 --> 00:39:34,910
and we were--

965
00:39:34,910 --> 00:39:36,850
here is the Coliseum
like this way.

966
00:39:36,850 --> 00:39:39,740
And again, it seated
20-30,000 people in it.

967
00:39:39,740 --> 00:39:41,720
And that was the ice was here.

968
00:39:41,720 --> 00:39:44,420
We were seated right

on the edge of the ice

969

00:39:44,420 --> 00:39:45,970

above the dressing room.

970

00:39:45,970 --> 00:39:46,760

OK?

971

00:39:46,760 --> 00:39:50,090

And I was right up against
the rail right there.

972

00:39:50,090 --> 00:39:52,460

And I could see the
girls skate out,

973

00:39:52,460 --> 00:39:53,960

and I could look
down in the cracks

974

00:39:53,960 --> 00:39:56,780

and see them come straight
out on the ice like that.

975

00:39:56,780 --> 00:39:57,290

Wow.

976

00:39:57,290 --> 00:40:00,590

And I could look out on the
ice, and of course, playing

977

00:40:00,590 --> 00:40:03,020

the show, what was
written for four trumpets

978

00:40:03,020 --> 00:40:06,230

and we were two trumpets, I
never looked out on the ice

979

00:40:06,230 --> 00:40:09,450

doing the show, not
for at least a month.

980

00:40:09,450 --> 00:40:13,780

And then I learned that
after intermission, why,

981

00:40:13,780 --> 00:40:18,280

the star of the show,
her name was Vera Hrubá--

982

00:40:18,280 --> 00:40:21,110

"Hroo-ba"-- who was
Czechoslovakian,

983

00:40:21,110 --> 00:40:23,960

who was in her mid 20s, who
later went on became a movie

984

00:40:23,960 --> 00:40:24,800

star.

985

00:40:24,800 --> 00:40:28,490

And her husband was
a multi-millionaire

986

00:40:28,490 --> 00:40:31,730

because the show was billed
as a million dollar show,

987

00:40:31,730 --> 00:40:34,250

and it was spent
on the costumes.

988

00:40:34,250 --> 00:40:37,910

And anyway, I got a
chance to see what it

989

00:40:37,910 --> 00:40:39,350

looked like when they skated.

990

00:40:39,350 --> 00:40:40,790

I mean, it was beyond, you know.

991

00:40:40,790 --> 00:40:42,020

Gorgeous must be.

992

00:40:42,020 --> 00:40:44,160

The costumes and
things were incredible.

993

00:40:44,160 --> 00:40:49,790

And I'll go on, and on, and on.

994

00:40:49,790 --> 00:40:50,330

No, no, no.

995

00:40:50,330 --> 00:40:53,030

I need to go back to the war.

996

00:40:53,030 --> 00:40:53,940

Yes, I'll go back.

997

00:40:53,940 --> 00:40:56,660

Yeah, I want to ask you
about where were you?

998

00:40:56,660 --> 00:40:58,820

Were you working
at the Ice Capades

999

00:40:58,820 --> 00:41:00,760

when Pearl Harbor happened?

1000

00:41:00,760 --> 00:41:01,260

No.

1001

00:41:01,260 --> 00:41:02,390

Where were you at that--

1002

00:41:02,390 --> 00:41:04,190

No, when the war was on, yeah.

1003

00:41:04,190 --> 00:41:07,640

In 1941, December 7, 1941?

1004

00:41:07,640 --> 00:41:09,180
I was in Atlantic City.

1005
00:41:09,180 --> 00:41:09,680
Yes.

1006
00:41:09,680 --> 00:41:10,880
You remember the date?

1007
00:41:10,880 --> 00:41:13,280
Do you remember hearing
about Pearl Harbor?

1008
00:41:13,280 --> 00:41:15,170
Wait, wait, wait, yeah.

1009
00:41:15,170 --> 00:41:17,360
Yeah, well, it didn't
mean much because again,

1010
00:41:17,360 --> 00:41:19,400
no newspapers or the radio.

1011
00:41:19,400 --> 00:41:21,450
That didn't mean
very much to me.

1012
00:41:21,450 --> 00:41:26,690
I knew that I was only going to
be drafted, that much I knew.

1013
00:41:26,690 --> 00:41:35,330
And I was in New York when I
was drafted because I remember

1014
00:41:35,330 --> 00:41:37,880
my father calling me
and saying, you're

1015
00:41:37,880 --> 00:41:41,870
going to be drafted at
the end of the month.

1016

00:41:41,870 --> 00:41:45,290

And you have to come
down to Atlantic City,

1017

00:41:45,290 --> 00:41:48,710

and this is what
changed my whole life.

1018

00:41:48,710 --> 00:41:52,280

At that time, he told
me, Glenn Miller, who

1019

00:41:52,280 --> 00:41:55,670

was like number one
then with his records

1020

00:41:55,670 --> 00:41:58,280

and playing everywhere,
was going to have

1021

00:41:58,280 --> 00:42:00,590

his orchestra in Atlantic City.

1022

00:42:00,590 --> 00:42:02,780

My father is a piano player.

1023

00:42:02,780 --> 00:42:05,840

And on the boardwalk were
a lot of clubs at that time

1024

00:42:05,840 --> 00:42:09,350

because the Air Corps had taken
over Atlantic City, all Air

1025

00:42:09,350 --> 00:42:10,310

Corps.

1026

00:42:10,310 --> 00:42:13,200

And they just
beautifully in every way.

1027

00:42:13,200 --> 00:42:15,530

And so my father
called me up one day,

1028
00:42:15,530 --> 00:42:20,330
and he said, I want you to
come back tomorrow or next day,

1029
00:42:20,330 --> 00:42:25,653
and I want you to meet
somebody from the army,

1030
00:42:25,653 --> 00:42:26,820
or something to that effect.

1031
00:42:26,820 --> 00:42:28,660
So your father tells you, hello.

1032
00:42:28,660 --> 00:42:29,310
OK, you go.

1033
00:42:29,310 --> 00:42:30,420
One day later I'm home.

1034
00:42:30,420 --> 00:42:32,870
And he takes me up
on the boardwalk.

1035
00:42:32,870 --> 00:42:35,810
And I meet somebody
who is an officer.

1036
00:42:35,810 --> 00:42:40,460
And I showed him a score, when
you write music arrangements,

1037
00:42:40,460 --> 00:42:42,080
you have a big yellow page.

1038
00:42:42,080 --> 00:42:45,020
Can we cut it for a second?

1039
00:42:45,020 --> 00:42:46,065

All right.

1040
00:42:46,065 --> 00:42:46,565
Anyway.

1041
00:42:46,565 --> 00:42:51,920

1042
00:42:51,920 --> 00:42:53,290
You showed a score and--

1043
00:42:53,290 --> 00:42:57,230
I showed the score, yeah,
to the person down there.

1044
00:42:57,230 --> 00:42:59,600
And they said,
incredible, love it.

1045
00:42:59,600 --> 00:43:02,090
And he said, and you
play trumpet, great.

1046
00:43:02,090 --> 00:43:04,520
He said, I'll write
a letter for you.

1047
00:43:04,520 --> 00:43:08,690
And so I went to wherever he
was somewhere on the boardwalk

1048
00:43:08,690 --> 00:43:10,320
and he wrote a letter for me.

1049
00:43:10,320 --> 00:43:14,720
And he said, go down and
enlist at the post office,

1050
00:43:14,720 --> 00:43:16,340
one block down here.

1051
00:43:16,340 --> 00:43:17,540

And I said, yes.

1052

00:43:17,540 --> 00:43:22,670

And he said, in a day or
so, or two days or so, you

1053

00:43:22,670 --> 00:43:25,280

will be in Fort Dix, New Jersey.

1054

00:43:25,280 --> 00:43:27,420

And when you're in
Fort Dix, New Jersey,

1055

00:43:27,420 --> 00:43:31,070

he said, you take this letter
in and show it to the officer

1056

00:43:31,070 --> 00:43:31,820

there.

1057

00:43:31,820 --> 00:43:35,660

And he said, you will be back in
Atlantic City in a week, or two

1058

00:43:35,660 --> 00:43:39,133

weeks, or a month, or whatever
that happened to be, and so.

1059

00:43:39,133 --> 00:43:40,800

I said, what I would
do with my trumpet?

1060

00:43:40,800 --> 00:43:43,550

He said, take your trumpet
with you, I said OK.

1061

00:43:43,550 --> 00:43:47,390

So next day or so, I went
down to the post office.

1062

00:43:47,390 --> 00:43:50,270

So instead of being
drafted, you enlisted?

1063
00:43:50,270 --> 00:43:52,292
I enlisted before
the draft, yes.

1064
00:43:52,292 --> 00:43:53,000
And that was it--

1065
00:43:53,000 --> 00:43:55,200
and you didn't know it,
and people don't know it,

1066
00:43:55,200 --> 00:43:57,500
but the number you
had in the army

1067
00:43:57,500 --> 00:43:59,480
told you whether you
were drafted or enlisted

1068
00:43:59,480 --> 00:44:01,160
or not in those days.

1069
00:44:01,160 --> 00:44:01,925
I didn't know it.

1070
00:44:01,925 --> 00:44:06,710
My number was 12133400,
and other people

1071
00:44:06,710 --> 00:44:08,720
have different numbers.

1072
00:44:08,720 --> 00:44:10,930
And in those days,
when you got out,

1073
00:44:10,930 --> 00:44:12,980
they knew whether you
were a soldier anyway,

1074
00:44:12,980 --> 00:44:14,030

which wasn't important.

1075
00:44:14,030 --> 00:44:15,440
So I enlisted.

1076
00:44:15,440 --> 00:44:21,580
Problem was, no one said
enlist in the Air Corps,

1077
00:44:21,580 --> 00:44:22,330
and guess what?

1078
00:44:22,330 --> 00:44:24,400
What happened?

1079
00:44:24,400 --> 00:44:28,010
I'm in Fort Dix, and I'm
there for about three days,

1080
00:44:28,010 --> 00:44:33,540
and my name's Bauer, and
on where we're living,

1081
00:44:33,540 --> 00:44:38,020
it's a about five, about
five or six inches long,

1082
00:44:38,020 --> 00:44:40,230
with all the little
names on it, saying pack,

1083
00:44:40,230 --> 00:44:41,540
tomorrow you're leaving.

1084
00:44:41,540 --> 00:44:44,600
And the very first one is Bauer.

1085
00:44:44,600 --> 00:44:47,890
And so I thought I was
going to Atlantic City.

1086
00:44:47,890 --> 00:44:51,040

And I get on a train,
and I'm on a train,

1087
00:44:51,040 --> 00:44:54,908
and I'm on the train, and
the train, and I'm like,

1088
00:44:54,908 --> 00:44:56,200
I'm not going to Atlantic City.

1089
00:44:56,200 --> 00:44:57,520
I know how to go to Atlantic.

1090
00:44:57,520 --> 00:44:59,020
Where the heck am I?

1091
00:44:59,020 --> 00:45:03,370
And three, or four, or five
days later, I don't remember,

1092
00:45:03,370 --> 00:45:06,600
I'm in a place called
Colorado Springs.

1093
00:45:06,600 --> 00:45:07,980
And what am I in?

1094
00:45:07,980 --> 00:45:10,320
I'm in the infantry.

1095
00:45:10,320 --> 00:45:11,610
Oh my goodness.

1096
00:45:11,610 --> 00:45:12,510
And this was when?

1097
00:45:12,510 --> 00:45:13,800
1942?

1098
00:45:13,800 --> 00:45:15,150
This is 1942.

1099

00:45:15,150 --> 00:45:18,780

I enlisted in
October, October 28,

1100

00:45:18,780 --> 00:45:23,130

and in November, I am
in Colorado Springs.

1101

00:45:23,130 --> 00:45:26,410

And I always remember,
when is Thanksgiving?

1102

00:45:26,410 --> 00:45:29,060

The third week of November.

1103

00:45:29,060 --> 00:45:33,480

OK, and I'm in the barracks,
on the second floor

1104

00:45:33,480 --> 00:45:38,160

in the barracks in Colorado
Springs, in the mountains.

1105

00:45:38,160 --> 00:45:40,950

Pikes Peak was right up
here, beautiful beyond.

1106

00:45:40,950 --> 00:45:43,850

You look up and you talk
about heaven, it's lovely.

1107

00:45:43,850 --> 00:45:44,950

OK?

1108

00:45:44,950 --> 00:45:47,650

And I look on the
bulletin board,

1109

00:45:47,650 --> 00:45:53,440

and it said, we are two army
nurses from World War I,

1110

00:45:53,440 --> 00:45:56,980
and we'd like to cook
Thanksgiving dinner

1111
00:45:56,980 --> 00:45:59,250
for 10 people.

1112
00:45:59,250 --> 00:46:00,516
Call us.

1113
00:46:00,516 --> 00:46:01,210
OK.

1114
00:46:01,210 --> 00:46:04,930
And this is me, and I'm
going to holler at the guys.

1115
00:46:04,930 --> 00:46:06,580
And so we put
together, I don't know,

1116
00:46:06,580 --> 00:46:09,600
the 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,
whatever that happen to be,

1117
00:46:09,600 --> 00:46:13,090
and they picked us up
right in front of the camp

1118
00:46:13,090 --> 00:46:14,520
and took us to their house.

1119
00:46:14,520 --> 00:46:17,025
And again, they were two
nurses from-- you know.

1120
00:46:17,025 --> 00:46:17,650
World War I.

1121
00:46:17,650 --> 00:46:18,702
Unbelievable.

1122

00:46:18,702 --> 00:46:19,660
I'll never forget that.

1123
00:46:19,660 --> 00:46:20,650
They were incredible .

1124
00:46:20,650 --> 00:46:23,260
And so we had Thanksgiving
there, and had Thanksgiving

1125
00:46:23,260 --> 00:46:25,390
there for the next
two years, I remember,

1126
00:46:25,390 --> 00:46:26,410
before we went overseas.

1127
00:46:26,410 --> 00:46:29,320

1128
00:46:29,320 --> 00:46:33,730
So you found out too
late that you had not

1129
00:46:33,730 --> 00:46:36,360
enlisted in the right way,
and he had never told you?

1130
00:46:36,360 --> 00:46:38,740
I did not even think about it.

1131
00:46:38,740 --> 00:46:39,947
It never dawned on me.

1132
00:46:39,947 --> 00:46:41,780
I went to the army, it
didn't mean anything.

1133
00:46:41,780 --> 00:46:43,822
It was two years later,
I started thinking about,

1134

00:46:43,822 --> 00:46:45,310
what did I do wrong?

1135
00:46:45,310 --> 00:46:48,190
No one told me you should
enlist in the Air Corps

1136
00:46:48,190 --> 00:46:50,560
because they're in
the Air Corps there.

1137
00:46:50,560 --> 00:46:54,700
And you never saw, I mean,
the letter that he gave you,

1138
00:46:54,700 --> 00:46:55,630
was it sealed?

1139
00:46:55,630 --> 00:46:56,800
Oh yeah.

1140
00:46:56,800 --> 00:46:57,400
Oh yeah.

1141
00:46:57,400 --> 00:46:58,370
Oh yeah.

1142
00:46:58,370 --> 00:46:59,860
Pardon me, yeah, I took it in.

1143
00:46:59,860 --> 00:47:01,030
[PHONE RINGING]

1144
00:47:01,030 --> 00:47:01,955
Can we cut?

1145
00:47:01,955 --> 00:47:03,070
Is that you?

1146
00:47:03,070 --> 00:47:05,500
That's your telephone.

1147

00:47:05,500 --> 00:47:10,540

OK, so when you
discover that you're not

1148

00:47:10,540 --> 00:47:13,720

going back to Atlantic
City, were you upset?

1149

00:47:13,720 --> 00:47:15,940

Were you perplexed?

1150

00:47:15,940 --> 00:47:16,690

Do you remember?

1151

00:47:16,690 --> 00:47:17,890

You just accepted it?

1152

00:47:17,890 --> 00:47:21,340

I sent my folks a terrible
telegram, I remember.

1153

00:47:21,340 --> 00:47:23,120

We could do that, that was free.

1154

00:47:23,120 --> 00:47:27,430

You could send it
to them because when

1155

00:47:27,430 --> 00:47:31,840

I was in, pardon me,
Fort Dix, and I went in

1156

00:47:31,840 --> 00:47:34,060

and saw a captain, as I recall.

1157

00:47:34,060 --> 00:47:35,590

Excuse me please, cut.

1158

00:47:35,590 --> 00:47:38,935

Excuse me, you go into
somebody's office in Fort Dix.

1159

00:47:38,935 --> 00:47:40,060

Is that what you're saying?

1160

00:47:40,060 --> 00:47:40,390

Yeah.

1161

00:47:40,390 --> 00:47:40,890

OK.

1162

00:47:40,890 --> 00:47:43,120

I was in the Fort Dix when

I saw Bauer was on there.

1163

00:47:43,120 --> 00:47:44,710

I just walked into the place.

1164

00:47:44,710 --> 00:47:47,140

And I can remember, I'm skinny.

1165

00:47:47,140 --> 00:47:49,560

In those days, I was skinny
beyond there, nothing fit me.

1166

00:47:49,560 --> 00:47:50,790

If you can imagine.

1167

00:47:50,790 --> 00:47:52,060

Everything's fallen off you.

1168

00:47:52,060 --> 00:47:55,102

And I walked into, didn't salute
me, and gave him the letter.

1169

00:47:55,102 --> 00:47:57,310

And I remember he read the
letter, aand smiled at me,

1170

00:47:57,310 --> 00:48:00,490

and went this way like, they
say, enjoy where you're going.

1171

00:48:00,490 --> 00:48:01,510
He tore it up?

1172
00:48:01,510 --> 00:48:04,070
Yeah.

1173
00:48:04,070 --> 00:48:08,270
Well, again, I was in the
army and this was from where?

1174
00:48:08,270 --> 00:48:10,050
The Air Corps.

1175
00:48:10,050 --> 00:48:11,418
The Air Force, bye, bye.

1176
00:48:11,418 --> 00:48:12,460
That's all he said to me.

1177
00:48:12,460 --> 00:48:13,877
You will enjoy
where you're going.

1178
00:48:13,877 --> 00:48:17,860
Bing, bing, bye, and
smile, and that was it.

1179
00:48:17,860 --> 00:48:20,250
And then again, as
I said, I'd go back

1180
00:48:20,250 --> 00:48:22,660
in the barracks we
had in those days

1181
00:48:22,660 --> 00:48:24,190
and, I don't know,
a couple of days

1182
00:48:24,190 --> 00:48:26,648
later, why, we're on
trains going somewhere.

1183

00:48:26,648 --> 00:48:27,940

I don't know where we're going.

1184

00:48:27,940 --> 00:48:28,523

I had no idea.

1185

00:48:28,523 --> 00:48:30,850

Nobody knew where we were
gone, and that went for days

1186

00:48:30,850 --> 00:48:32,080

as I remember.

1187

00:48:32,080 --> 00:48:36,970

And oh, and pardon me,
there was no place to sleep.

1188

00:48:36,970 --> 00:48:38,170

So where did you sleep?

1189

00:48:38,170 --> 00:48:39,160

Where did you sleep?

1190

00:48:39,160 --> 00:48:40,584

On the floor.

1191

00:48:40,584 --> 00:48:41,440

Wow.

1192

00:48:41,440 --> 00:48:43,240

Isn't that where you sleep?

1193

00:48:43,240 --> 00:48:45,650

When there's no place else.

1194

00:48:45,650 --> 00:48:48,250

That was the army, or
whatever happened to be,

1195

00:48:48,250 --> 00:48:51,550

and whenever it

was we got there.

1196

00:48:51,550 --> 00:48:55,450

So what was basic training like?

1197

00:48:55,450 --> 00:48:58,393

Beside the word F for
everything that you did?

1198

00:48:58,393 --> 00:48:59,080

Oh, I see.

1199

00:48:59,080 --> 00:49:02,620

And I have to tell
you, this kills me.

1200

00:49:02,620 --> 00:49:09,230

1201

00:49:09,230 --> 00:49:11,870

Just drop the subject
quickly, last week.

1202

00:49:11,870 --> 00:49:13,430

Let's cut.

1203

00:49:13,430 --> 00:49:13,940

Continue.

1204

00:49:13,940 --> 00:49:14,590

Please.

1205

00:49:14,590 --> 00:49:19,700

So tell me what was
basic training like?

1206

00:49:19,700 --> 00:49:24,440

Basic training when it
started out there, again,

1207

00:49:24,440 --> 00:49:27,840

everything, you know, they

never stop swearing at you.

1208

00:49:27,840 --> 00:49:35,030

And we were out on these
fields where you trained.

1209

00:49:35,030 --> 00:49:38,930

Every day, we were up
at 5:30 in the morning

1210

00:49:38,930 --> 00:49:42,350

because at 5:15 a
band would play,

1211

00:49:42,350 --> 00:49:44,180

and that means you
would run into the john,

1212

00:49:44,180 --> 00:49:45,380

and whatever like that.

1213

00:49:45,380 --> 00:49:48,850

And in 5:30 you ate until 6:30.

1214

00:49:48,850 --> 00:49:53,660

And at 6:30 you would,
as a unit, and I

1215

00:49:53,660 --> 00:49:55,970

don't remember how many
people were in my outfit,

1216

00:49:55,970 --> 00:49:58,400

but it was two
floors full of men.

1217

00:49:58,400 --> 00:50:01,820

So I don't know whether there
were 50 men, or 60 men, or 70,

1218

00:50:01,820 --> 00:50:03,380

but a lot of guys were there.

1219

00:50:03,380 --> 00:50:04,640

And we're all kids.

1220

00:50:04,640 --> 00:50:07,200

And in those days,
we had double bunks.

1221

00:50:07,200 --> 00:50:09,590

Were here and there was
a bunk above you there.

1222

00:50:09,590 --> 00:50:11,510

And maybe there was
100 people in there.

1223

00:50:11,510 --> 00:50:13,670

And so we were all
scared to death,

1224

00:50:13,670 --> 00:50:15,440

and you just did what they did.

1225

00:50:15,440 --> 00:50:18,110

And every day,
the officers would

1226

00:50:18,110 --> 00:50:24,470

come through, or the
sergeants, or corporals,

1227

00:50:24,470 --> 00:50:27,300

or whatever these guys were,
and really beat the crap out

1228

00:50:27,300 --> 00:50:30,890

of you in every way
because, what did you have?

1229

00:50:30,890 --> 00:50:34,967

You had a foot locker, and
behind the bed you had,

1230

00:50:34,967 --> 00:50:36,800

I don't remember what
else we had, someplace

1231

00:50:36,800 --> 00:50:38,600

to put our bedding or
something like that.

1232

00:50:38,600 --> 00:50:40,517

There was always wrong
who never got it right.

1233

00:50:40,517 --> 00:50:42,140

And when they would
talk to you, they

1234

00:50:42,140 --> 00:50:44,210

put their nose on your nose.

1235

00:50:44,210 --> 00:50:46,630

That's how close
they get, you know.

1236

00:50:46,630 --> 00:50:49,790

Anyway, and after
a while, you start

1237

00:50:49,790 --> 00:50:51,840

to get used to this
garbage, afterwards,

1238

00:50:51,840 --> 00:50:53,580

come on guys, every day?

1239

00:50:53,580 --> 00:50:57,322

And out on the field, why, we
were marching all the time,

1240

00:50:57,322 --> 00:50:59,030

and we were training,
which meant we were

1241

00:50:59,030 --> 00:51:01,348

doing push-ups and roll over.

1242

00:51:01,348 --> 00:51:03,765

And then we were wrestling and
we were fighting like guys.

1243

00:51:03,765 --> 00:51:05,540

And I remember it was like--

1244

00:51:05,540 --> 00:51:08,180

and as life would be,
I said I was lucky

1245

00:51:08,180 --> 00:51:11,600

because the 89th
Infantry Division was

1246

00:51:11,600 --> 00:51:15,510

the Midwestern division,
and most of the people

1247

00:51:15,510 --> 00:51:16,910

were from the Midwest.

1248

00:51:16,910 --> 00:51:20,420

Most of them were in
farming and farmers,

1249

00:51:20,420 --> 00:51:23,210

who were people who were used to
getting up early in the morning

1250

00:51:23,210 --> 00:51:25,380

and putting up, pardon
me, with all this

1251

00:51:25,380 --> 00:51:26,960

we were putting up with.

1252

00:51:26,960 --> 00:51:29,360

And it was very--

1253

00:51:29,360 --> 00:51:34,370
I don't know when it happened,
but I nicknamed the sergeants.

1254
00:51:34,370 --> 00:51:35,990
That's the way it started.

1255
00:51:35,990 --> 00:51:38,060
And everybody picked it up.

1256
00:51:38,060 --> 00:51:39,080
I don't know why.

1257
00:51:39,080 --> 00:51:39,920
They picked it up.

1258
00:51:39,920 --> 00:51:41,930
You can imagine what
the nicknames were, OK?

1259
00:51:41,930 --> 00:51:42,800
[LAUGHS]

1260
00:51:42,800 --> 00:51:49,440
And anyway, they-- oh yeah,
they were on the floor above us.

1261
00:51:49,440 --> 00:51:51,870
That's what it was,
that's the sergeants,

1262
00:51:51,870 --> 00:51:53,610
and this is first place we were.

1263
00:51:53,610 --> 00:51:55,680
Yeah, they were on the floor.

1264
00:51:55,680 --> 00:51:59,910
And I went up in the
middle of the night,

1265
00:51:59,910 --> 00:52:05,250

silently in my underwear, with
an egg I took from the kitchen,

1266
00:52:05,250 --> 00:52:07,725
and broke it and put it where?

1267
00:52:07,725 --> 00:52:11,000
In his shoe, in his boot.

1268
00:52:11,000 --> 00:52:13,120
Hello.

1269
00:52:13,120 --> 00:52:15,940
That's me, and
everybody knew what

1270
00:52:15,940 --> 00:52:18,700
I had done cause it
spread like wildfire.

1271
00:52:18,700 --> 00:52:20,777
And with that I became
king of the road.

1272
00:52:20,777 --> 00:52:22,060
[CHUCKLES]

1273
00:52:22,060 --> 00:52:22,660

1274
00:52:22,660 --> 00:52:25,090
Did he ever find out who it was?

1275
00:52:25,090 --> 00:52:26,590
No, no.

1276
00:52:26,590 --> 00:52:28,470
Did you ever hear
what he reacted?

1277
00:52:28,470 --> 00:52:34,430
He came down and screamed,

but he got the message.

1278
00:52:34,430 --> 00:52:36,050
And he changed.

1279
00:52:36,050 --> 00:52:39,500
And it was more human
because we were humans.

1280
00:52:39,500 --> 00:52:41,810
And it turned out to
be he was somebody

1281
00:52:41,810 --> 00:52:46,200
who was a regular army person,
who the army was his life.

1282
00:52:46,200 --> 00:52:47,960
And so he beat the
crap out of everybody.

1283
00:52:47,960 --> 00:52:50,030
That's the way to
straighten this out,

1284
00:52:50,030 --> 00:52:53,340
and especially you New York guys
with the big mouths, remember?

1285
00:52:53,340 --> 00:52:54,980
And I was from New
York, when most

1286
00:52:54,980 --> 00:52:57,590
of the people that nearly
all of us, or them,

1287
00:52:57,590 --> 00:52:59,870
were from the Midwest,
who were, yes, sir.

1288
00:52:59,870 --> 00:53:01,260
You know, that kind of thing.

1289
00:53:01,260 --> 00:53:04,070
Yeah, yeah.

1290
00:53:04,070 --> 00:53:08,300
How long were you there,
in Colorado Springs?

1291
00:53:08,300 --> 00:53:09,610
I enlisted in October.

1292
00:53:09,610 --> 00:53:11,370
'42?

1293
00:53:11,370 --> 00:53:12,290
'42.

1294
00:53:12,290 --> 00:53:14,300
Went in October 28.

1295
00:53:14,300 --> 00:53:16,520
And I think it came
out of the army

1296
00:53:16,520 --> 00:53:19,850
42 months later in March of '46.

1297
00:53:19,850 --> 00:53:20,790
OK.

1298
00:53:20,790 --> 00:53:25,850
And we went overseas in '43.

1299
00:53:25,850 --> 00:53:31,040
Did you go straight from
Colorado Springs overseas?

1300
00:53:31,040 --> 00:53:33,720
Or did you go
somewhere else before?

1301

00:53:33,720 --> 00:53:35,600
I go like this again.

1302
00:53:35,600 --> 00:53:42,435
We were attached, the
band, to the office.

1303
00:53:42,435 --> 00:53:45,780

1304
00:53:45,780 --> 00:53:47,160
I wrote the name down there.

1305
00:53:47,160 --> 00:53:48,490
I have to look at it.

1306
00:53:48,490 --> 00:53:52,660
There's an office that
runs the whole place,

1307
00:53:52,660 --> 00:53:54,780
and we were right
next door to them.

1308
00:53:54,780 --> 00:53:57,510
And we didn't know, but the
band was attached to the office.

1309
00:53:57,510 --> 00:54:01,320
Excuse me, how did you go
from going into basic training

1310
00:54:01,320 --> 00:54:03,100
into being in a band?

1311
00:54:03,100 --> 00:54:07,410
OK, all right, yes.

1312
00:54:07,410 --> 00:54:10,680
I was there for a while.

1313
00:54:10,680 --> 00:54:14,490

And every morning, I heard a
band at 5:30 marching around,

1314
00:54:14,490 --> 00:54:16,630
playing a march to wake us up.

1315
00:54:16,630 --> 00:54:17,730
And again, we would eat.

1316
00:54:17,730 --> 00:54:21,670
And so, on the weekends,
if I can remember right,

1317
00:54:21,670 --> 00:54:22,802
I know Sunday was off.

1318
00:54:22,802 --> 00:54:24,510
I don't think we were
off Saturday night.

1319
00:54:24,510 --> 00:54:26,610
I think we were off
Saturday and Sunday.

1320
00:54:26,610 --> 00:54:29,940
And Saturday and Sunday you
could down to the PX and

1321
00:54:29,940 --> 00:54:32,547
eat food, or write
and send letters,

1322
00:54:32,547 --> 00:54:33,630
and things of that nature.

1323
00:54:33,630 --> 00:54:35,730
That's where we
lived in the PXs.

1324
00:54:35,730 --> 00:54:44,370
And anyway, I went over and I
found out where the band was,

1325

00:54:44,370 --> 00:54:51,050

went over and the man's
name was Steg, S-T-E-G.

1326

00:54:51,050 --> 00:54:54,600

And I told them I
was a music arranger.

1327

00:54:54,600 --> 00:54:57,930

And he said, you
know, what's that?

1328

00:54:57,930 --> 00:54:59,640

I said, I'll write
all the music for you.

1329

00:54:59,640 --> 00:55:01,140

He didn't know.

1330

00:55:01,140 --> 00:55:05,350

And anyway, so he said,
what are you talking about?

1331

00:55:05,350 --> 00:55:07,380

And I said, do you
have a dance band.

1332

00:55:07,380 --> 00:55:08,610

He said sure.

1333

00:55:08,610 --> 00:55:10,950

And so I said, OK,
I play trumpet.

1334

00:55:10,950 --> 00:55:12,750

He said great, OK.

1335

00:55:12,750 --> 00:55:13,980

And he said, where are you?

1336

00:55:13,980 --> 00:55:15,240

And stuff like that.

1337
00:55:15,240 --> 00:55:17,760
And I don't know whether it
was two days or two weeks,

1338
00:55:17,760 --> 00:55:20,050
but I was in the band.

1339
00:55:20,050 --> 00:55:23,537
And in the barracks
was wherever it was.

1340
00:55:23,537 --> 00:55:25,370
Next thing you know,
they just moving again,

1341
00:55:25,370 --> 00:55:26,495
you had this much clothing.

1342
00:55:26,495 --> 00:55:27,310
I had nothing.

1343
00:55:27,310 --> 00:55:29,380
So you said goodbye
to that Sergeant?

1344
00:55:29,380 --> 00:55:29,880
Pardon me?

1345
00:55:29,880 --> 00:55:31,320
You said goodbye
to that Sergeant

1346
00:55:31,320 --> 00:55:33,660
because you didn't live
in that barracks anymore.

1347
00:55:33,660 --> 00:55:35,560
Believe me, I couldn't
wait to get out.

1348
00:55:35,560 --> 00:55:38,580

And at the time, I was
lucky too because it was

1349
00:55:38,580 --> 00:55:40,710
a fellow called Tony Lopata.

1350
00:55:40,710 --> 00:55:44,820
And Tony Lopata's father
was a guitar player

1351
00:55:44,820 --> 00:55:47,610
who worked with my
father in Atlantic City,

1352
00:55:47,610 --> 00:55:50,040
and we both enlisted together.

1353
00:55:50,040 --> 00:55:52,800
And he was a wonderful
trombone player.

1354
00:55:52,800 --> 00:55:57,210
And he had studied with
Wayne Curtis in Philadelphia,

1355
00:55:57,210 --> 00:55:59,460
which was a music school,
which was number one in all.

1356
00:55:59,460 --> 00:56:01,640
A great trombone player.

1357
00:56:01,640 --> 00:56:03,530
This small and whatever
happened to be.

1358
00:56:03,530 --> 00:56:05,197
And the two of us had
enlisted together.

1359
00:56:05,197 --> 00:56:08,800
So we were both in the band,
and trumpet and trombone player.

1360
00:56:08,800 --> 00:56:13,710
And anyway, we spent a
good part of the time

1361
00:56:13,710 --> 00:56:16,200
together because
again, we had no money.

1362
00:56:16,200 --> 00:56:17,270
[CHUCKLES]

1363
00:56:17,270 --> 00:56:17,770

1364
00:56:17,770 --> 00:56:22,920
And I always remember on
payday that we walked through

1365
00:56:22,920 --> 00:56:27,270
and payday, which was
once a month, why,

1366
00:56:27,270 --> 00:56:30,000
I guess it was the second
month, I guess I had no money.

1367
00:56:30,000 --> 00:56:35,180
But anyway, you
said your number,

1368
00:56:35,180 --> 00:56:40,760
you'd say like, Maurice
Bauer, 12133400.

1369
00:56:40,760 --> 00:56:42,680
And they'd say, salute.

1370
00:56:42,680 --> 00:56:44,420
And then they give you a check.

1371
00:56:44,420 --> 00:56:50,690

And so when I went through,
I gave them the wrong number,

1372
00:56:50,690 --> 00:56:51,530
and guess what?

1373
00:56:51,530 --> 00:56:52,430
What?

1374
00:56:52,430 --> 00:56:53,420
No check?

1375
00:56:53,420 --> 00:56:55,830
Come back next month.

1376
00:56:55,830 --> 00:56:56,938
Hello.

1377
00:56:56,938 --> 00:56:58,230
You don't know your own number.

1378
00:56:58,230 --> 00:57:00,450
Somehow I didn't
know that was wrong.

1379
00:57:00,450 --> 00:57:01,530
Hello.

1380
00:57:01,530 --> 00:57:04,860
I was supposed to say MB 1230--

1381
00:57:04,860 --> 00:57:06,820
some dumb thing like that.

1382
00:57:06,820 --> 00:57:08,970
And so I had no money at
all for a whole month.

1383
00:57:08,970 --> 00:57:10,395
[CHUCKLES]

1384

00:57:10,395 --> 00:57:14,460

And I was going around
like, can you loan me \$1?

1385

00:57:14,460 --> 00:57:16,270

That was the beginning
of the thing.

1386

00:57:16,270 --> 00:57:17,610

And then when I--

1387

00:57:17,610 --> 00:57:20,760

again, when I heard the
band, and I got the steak,

1388

00:57:20,760 --> 00:57:23,530

and he knew I was a trumpet,
and Tony his trombone,

1389

00:57:23,530 --> 00:57:25,680

like, within a
very short time, we

1390

00:57:25,680 --> 00:57:31,110

were now with the
band living with them.

1391

00:57:31,110 --> 00:57:33,780

Did that change
your basic training?

1392

00:57:33,780 --> 00:57:35,137

Oh yeah, completely.

1393

00:57:35,137 --> 00:57:35,970

So what did it mean?

1394

00:57:35,970 --> 00:57:37,770

You're no longer
in the infantry?

1395

00:57:37,770 --> 00:57:41,803

No, no, we were

still in the infantry

1396
00:57:41,803 --> 00:57:43,220
because the band
was the infantry.

1397
00:57:43,220 --> 00:57:44,730
We played for them
when they marched

1398
00:57:44,730 --> 00:57:45,840
and everything like that.

1399
00:57:45,840 --> 00:57:47,400
And we went out and trained.

1400
00:57:47,400 --> 00:57:50,290
And I can't remember
how many hours

1401
00:57:50,290 --> 00:57:52,620
that we would go out
and train physically,

1402
00:57:52,620 --> 00:57:55,800
and then we would go back
and rehearse with the band.

1403
00:57:55,800 --> 00:57:58,370
And as life would
be, as I said to you,

1404
00:57:58,370 --> 00:58:03,900
I can see where we were in
the camp and Colorado Springs

1405
00:58:03,900 --> 00:58:06,930
here, yeah, in camp, yeah.

1406
00:58:06,930 --> 00:58:11,670
Anyway, and I heard
the dance band.

1407

00:58:11,670 --> 00:58:15,600

And as I said to you, I sat
down and wrote some arrangements

1408

00:58:15,600 --> 00:58:16,350

for it.

1409

00:58:16,350 --> 00:58:19,590

And when they heard my
arrangements and the band play,

1410

00:58:19,590 --> 00:58:22,410

I was immediately, like,
in charge of the band.

1411

00:58:22,410 --> 00:58:23,490

It's your band.

1412

00:58:23,490 --> 00:58:31,320

And it was fun because when I
asked you to do this, you said,

1413

00:58:31,320 --> 00:58:32,220

sure.

1414

00:58:32,220 --> 00:58:33,720

It was like life.

1415

00:58:33,720 --> 00:58:37,057

And I said to myself, why was
it we used to be like that?

1416

00:58:37,057 --> 00:58:38,390

Everybody said, sure, certainly.

1417

00:58:38,390 --> 00:58:39,940

It was like that.

1418

00:58:39,940 --> 00:58:42,020

And so I hired--

1419

00:58:42,020 --> 00:58:44,670
not hired, but I put
the band together,

1420
00:58:44,670 --> 00:58:46,530
wrote the
arrangements, and wrote

1421
00:58:46,530 --> 00:58:49,770
a whole book of arrangements,
which for all the musicians.

1422
00:58:49,770 --> 00:58:52,890
So if you had a song, and a song
always ran around three minutes

1423
00:58:52,890 --> 00:58:57,270
long, a trumpet part we could
be three or four pages long,

1424
00:58:57,270 --> 00:58:58,650
just one trumpet.

1425
00:58:58,650 --> 00:59:01,380
And if you had three trumpets,
you had 12 pages there,

1426
00:59:01,380 --> 00:59:04,590
and if you had two trombones,
it was another 24 pages,

1427
00:59:04,590 --> 00:59:06,300
you had five saxophones.

1428
00:59:06,300 --> 00:59:07,580
And I wrote every note.

1429
00:59:07,580 --> 00:59:09,500
And You're a bass player,
wrote a little notes

1430
00:59:09,500 --> 00:59:10,530
for the bass player.

1431
00:59:10,530 --> 00:59:13,350
The drum part, I would write
out, tell them what to do.

1432
00:59:13,350 --> 00:59:17,610
And the first
arrangement I wrote

1433
00:59:17,610 --> 00:59:21,130
and I played it for
them, why, Steg heard it,

1434
00:59:21,130 --> 00:59:22,940
and they absolutely flipped.

1435
00:59:22,940 --> 00:59:24,690
They were like, wow,
it was really great.

1436
00:59:24,690 --> 00:59:25,590
How wonderful.

1437
00:59:25,590 --> 00:59:27,360
They said to me, you
know, like, you're

1438
00:59:27,360 --> 00:59:28,800
in charge of the dance band.

1439
00:59:28,800 --> 00:59:31,510
Put it together and
write the music.

1440
00:59:31,510 --> 00:59:34,560
And so many times when
they were out this way,

1441
00:59:34,560 --> 00:59:36,580
I was inside writing music.

1442
00:59:36,580 --> 00:59:38,355

So when they were
out doing exercises--

1443
00:59:38,355 --> 00:59:41,070
I was writing,
and I was writing.

1444
00:59:41,070 --> 00:59:43,200
And as life would be,
it's even in the book

1445
00:59:43,200 --> 00:59:44,630
that I have over here.

1446
00:59:44,630 --> 00:59:48,360
And I really didn't realize
it, but I have a picture

1447
00:59:48,360 --> 00:59:50,100
of my band with me in it.

1448
00:59:50,100 --> 00:59:53,490
And they have it in my book
here of the 89th Division

1449
00:59:53,490 --> 01:00:00,060
saying that the dance band
even played Rouen at one time.

1450
01:00:00,060 --> 01:00:02,860
When at that time, we were--

1451
01:00:02,860 --> 01:00:05,280
I guess Rouen from where
we were, from Le Havre,

1452
01:00:05,280 --> 01:00:08,850
was, I don't know, 40 miles
away or something like that.

1453
01:00:08,850 --> 01:00:11,010
We had to sleep
overnight or something.

1454
01:00:11,010 --> 01:00:14,250
We played for the
officers-- not for the men--

1455
01:00:14,250 --> 01:00:15,190
at the time.

1456
01:00:15,190 --> 01:00:17,250
So this is when you were
already over in France.

1457
01:00:17,250 --> 01:00:18,120
Yes.

1458
01:00:18,120 --> 01:00:19,050
Isn't that amazing.

1459
01:00:19,050 --> 01:00:20,010
Yeah.

1460
01:00:20,010 --> 01:00:21,610
That was all from
being [INAUDIBLE]..

1461
01:00:21,610 --> 01:00:22,860
Yeah.

1462
01:00:22,860 --> 01:00:27,480
So you stayed in Colorado
Springs for how long?

1463
01:00:27,480 --> 01:00:30,450
Well, we were in Colorado
Springs, as I said--

1464
01:00:30,450 --> 01:00:34,780

1465
01:00:34,780 --> 01:00:38,440
I would say I'm guessing
a year, year and a half.

1466
01:00:38,440 --> 01:00:39,640
I can't remember.

1467
01:00:39,640 --> 01:00:50,210
And what had happened also was
that the 89th division went

1468
01:00:50,210 --> 01:00:52,850
for maneuvers in California.

1469
01:00:52,850 --> 01:00:56,520
And because we were attached
to headquarters company--

1470
01:00:56,520 --> 01:00:57,910
bam, I didn't know it.

1471
01:00:57,910 --> 01:00:59,090
We didn't go.

1472
01:00:59,090 --> 01:01:01,130
Because we were--
headquarters company

1473
01:01:01,130 --> 01:01:02,930
is where all the officers went.

1474
01:01:02,930 --> 01:01:06,953
And all you guys for training
went out in the mountains

1475
01:01:06,953 --> 01:01:08,620
out in California,
because we were going

1476
01:01:08,620 --> 01:01:10,200
to go to Africa and Italy.

1477
01:01:10,200 --> 01:01:12,420
That's what the original
one was going to be for us.

1478
01:01:12,420 --> 01:01:14,900
And they want us to train
out there to do certain--

1479
01:01:14,900 --> 01:01:16,370
I don't know what
the hell it was.

1480
01:01:16,370 --> 01:01:18,380
And so the band stayed there.

1481
01:01:18,380 --> 01:01:19,960
The band stayed in
Colorado Springs?

1482
01:01:19,960 --> 01:01:22,780
Played and got-- yeah, we never
went with them on maneuvers.

1483
01:01:22,780 --> 01:01:23,690
All we did was--

1484
01:01:23,690 --> 01:01:26,190
we did train, again, every
day and so forth like that,

1485
01:01:26,190 --> 01:01:28,820
but nothing like they
beat the whatever out.

1486
01:01:28,820 --> 01:01:31,230
We did walk up Pikes Peak.

1487
01:01:31,230 --> 01:01:34,190
If you ever see Pikes
Peak, forget about it.

1488
01:01:34,190 --> 01:01:35,320
And we also did--

1489
01:01:35,320 --> 01:01:38,510

one other training
was walking 25 miles--

1490
01:01:38,510 --> 01:01:43,080
25 miles in the same day.

1491
01:01:43,080 --> 01:01:46,040
And I was a show off,
because when I came back,

1492
01:01:46,040 --> 01:01:48,770
I went to the movies that
night with two other guys.

1493
01:01:48,770 --> 01:01:49,970
Because nobody could walk.

1494
01:01:49,970 --> 01:01:52,950
But because I was skinny, I
could walk up the mountains

1495
01:01:52,950 --> 01:01:55,880
easier and I'd be the
first one up the mountains.

1496
01:01:55,880 --> 01:01:58,790
And because I was
skinny when we walked--

1497
01:01:58,790 --> 01:02:01,070
and because like, thank
you, and I'm still skinny.

1498
01:02:01,070 --> 01:02:03,940
And when I was a kid,
the doctors once a year

1499
01:02:03,940 --> 01:02:07,220
I saw used to make me eat
things that would make me fat.

1500
01:02:07,220 --> 01:02:09,460
Liverwurst-- I had to eat

liverwurst to get fat,

1501

01:02:09,460 --> 01:02:12,430
and I'm still not fat.

1502

01:02:12,430 --> 01:02:14,060
I go, thank you.

1503

01:02:14,060 --> 01:02:14,780
Yeah.

1504

01:02:14,780 --> 01:02:15,950
Unreal.

1505

01:02:15,950 --> 01:02:20,150
So when you shipped out,
where did you ship out to?

1506

01:02:20,150 --> 01:02:24,740
OK, what happened-- of
what I can remember--

1507

01:02:24,740 --> 01:02:30,740
number one, they said
we're going overseas,

1508

01:02:30,740 --> 01:02:33,200
and we're going to
be on boats, ships.

1509

01:02:33,200 --> 01:02:37,050
And you have to
know how to swim.

1510

01:02:37,050 --> 01:02:42,470
I'm from Atlantic City, but the
division was from the Midwest.

1511

01:02:42,470 --> 01:02:44,150
Nobody knew how to swim.

1512

01:02:44,150 --> 01:02:44,780

Really?

1513
01:02:44,780 --> 01:02:47,870
All these big guys, like
you don't how to swim?

1514
01:02:47,870 --> 01:02:50,120
Are you kidding?

1515
01:02:50,120 --> 01:02:51,470
We can't get on the boat.

1516
01:02:51,470 --> 01:02:52,340
You've got to go--

1517
01:02:52,340 --> 01:02:54,920
I thought it was the most
hilarious thing ever.

1518
01:02:54,920 --> 01:03:00,690
And anyway-- and they
shipped us to North Carolina,

1519
01:03:00,690 --> 01:03:02,230
of what I remember.

1520
01:03:02,230 --> 01:03:05,500
And then they
shipped us to Boston.

1521
01:03:05,500 --> 01:03:08,200
And I do remember Boston,
not North Carolina.

1522
01:03:08,200 --> 01:03:12,820
But I do remember being in
Boston in a Coliseum building

1523
01:03:12,820 --> 01:03:14,760
with hundreds and
hundreds of people--

1524

01:03:14,760 --> 01:03:16,780
or maybe thousands of people--

1525
01:03:16,780 --> 01:03:19,360
the night before
we went overseas.

1526
01:03:19,360 --> 01:03:22,910
And we were saying prayers.

1527
01:03:22,910 --> 01:03:26,750
And you can bet everybody
who was there was in there.

1528
01:03:26,750 --> 01:03:29,450
And half was on their
knees-- please--

1529
01:03:29,450 --> 01:03:34,730
because at that time the Nazis
had submarines off the coast,

1530
01:03:34,730 --> 01:03:38,350
and when you left, they were
shooting the ships down.

1531
01:03:38,350 --> 01:03:39,650
And then blowing them up.

1532
01:03:39,650 --> 01:03:42,110
So sometimes you
didn't even make it out

1533
01:03:42,110 --> 01:03:44,145
into the mid-Atlantic and
you were already gone?

1534
01:03:44,145 --> 01:03:44,770
Your were gone.

1535
01:03:44,770 --> 01:03:45,270
Absolutely.

1536

01:03:45,270 --> 01:03:45,800

Really?

1537

01:03:45,800 --> 01:03:52,190

Now that I-- anyway, so we go down and we get on this ship.

1538

01:03:52,190 --> 01:03:55,760

And I remember for three days I was downstairs

1539

01:03:55,760 --> 01:03:57,700

in a ship throwing up.

1540

01:03:57,700 --> 01:04:00,510

And on the fourth day, I managed to get up to the top.

1541

01:04:00,510 --> 01:04:03,200

They used to feed us pickles.

1542

01:04:03,200 --> 01:04:05,960

Anyway-- and started to eat, and I'm

1543

01:04:05,960 --> 01:04:09,060

walking on deck with just maybe a couple of other guys.

1544

01:04:09,060 --> 01:04:12,200

Oh, and at that time

I was a sergeant,

1545

01:04:12,200 --> 01:04:15,500

and sergeants could stay on the deck.

1546

01:04:15,500 --> 01:04:19,937

They had-- but being Bugs, I was with my men.

1547

01:04:19,937 --> 01:04:21,770

I went downstairs in
the bottom of the boat.

1548
01:04:21,770 --> 01:04:24,980
So did you get your nickname
in Colorado Springs?

1549
01:04:24,980 --> 01:04:25,820
Yes.

1550
01:04:25,820 --> 01:04:26,830
I was Bugs.

1551
01:04:26,830 --> 01:04:27,970
Bugs to everybody.

1552
01:04:27,970 --> 01:04:29,300
That was that.

1553
01:04:29,300 --> 01:04:32,570
And we go over.

1554
01:04:32,570 --> 01:04:34,700
And what we didn't
know until years later

1555
01:04:34,700 --> 01:04:37,340
was that on our way over--

1556
01:04:37,340 --> 01:04:39,530
we were supposed
to go to England.

1557
01:04:39,530 --> 01:04:42,410
And on our way over, they
said you're going into France.

1558
01:04:42,410 --> 01:04:45,890
We need you, and you're going
into the war from France

1559
01:04:45,890 --> 01:04:47,300

and to Germany.

1560

01:04:47,300 --> 01:04:48,470

And we did know that.

1561

01:04:48,470 --> 01:04:50,870

And so consequently

when we got to what

1562

01:04:50,870 --> 01:04:56,240

they call Lucky Strike, which

was the cigarette camp there,

1563

01:04:56,240 --> 01:04:58,120

guess what we had?

1564

01:04:58,120 --> 01:04:58,760

Lucky Strikes?

1565

01:04:58,760 --> 01:05:01,910

And guess where you

learned to smoke?

1566

01:05:01,910 --> 01:05:04,520

And if you smoked,

you didn't have to.

1567

01:05:04,520 --> 01:05:05,420

Hello.

1568

01:05:05,420 --> 01:05:08,180

We didn't have any

food for three months.

1569

01:05:08,180 --> 01:05:10,100

You had rations.

1570

01:05:10,100 --> 01:05:14,180

And the rations-- they were

this big, and it was like candy

1571

01:05:14,180 --> 01:05:15,380

and it was like that.

1572

01:05:15,380 --> 01:05:19,010

And we never knew why
until we went into war--

1573

01:05:19,010 --> 01:05:20,360

until went into Germany.

1574

01:05:20,360 --> 01:05:23,910

And that was the reason why,
because all of our food,

1575

01:05:23,910 --> 01:05:27,620

including our guns,
went to where?

1576

01:05:27,620 --> 01:05:28,850

To England.

1577

01:05:28,850 --> 01:05:32,720

And they gave us
2-inch firecrackers

1578

01:05:32,720 --> 01:05:38,030

to throw at the German jets
that were flying over us.

1579

01:05:38,030 --> 01:05:39,670

Hello?

1580

01:05:39,670 --> 01:05:42,880

And I say every day, the
kids who are in the service

1581

01:05:42,880 --> 01:05:44,550

right now--

1582

01:05:44,550 --> 01:05:46,270

well, if you're going
to be an officer,

1583

01:05:46,270 --> 01:05:48,880
you can be an officer
like in seven months.

1584
01:05:48,880 --> 01:05:51,470
And what did you do
before you and officer?

1585
01:05:51,470 --> 01:05:52,525
You were a tailor.

1586
01:05:52,525 --> 01:05:53,980
What the hell do you know about?

1587
01:05:53,980 --> 01:05:55,690
Everything you know
about us where?

1588
01:05:55,690 --> 01:05:57,340
In a book.

1589
01:05:57,340 --> 01:05:59,090
Right?

1590
01:05:59,090 --> 01:06:00,050
That was hopeless.

1591
01:06:00,050 --> 01:06:04,100
So in no time at all, I mean,
like when I was over there--

1592
01:06:04,100 --> 01:06:07,700
because I had a
band, I was sleeping

1593
01:06:07,700 --> 01:06:09,670
in a haystack in France--

1594
01:06:09,670 --> 01:06:13,210
in Rouen France.

1595
01:06:13,210 --> 01:06:15,422

No, no around La Havre.

1596

01:06:15,422 --> 01:06:16,630

I was sleeping in a haystack.

1597

01:06:16,630 --> 01:06:17,890

That's all I can remember.

1598

01:06:17,890 --> 01:06:22,770

And it was now Stegg and Larsen,
because what had happened to--

1599

01:06:22,770 --> 01:06:25,360

where they put two
bands together.

1600

01:06:25,360 --> 01:06:29,290

And they came to me, woke me up,
and took me downtown someplace

1601

01:06:29,290 --> 01:06:32,570

to eat food, which
was incredible.

1602

01:06:32,570 --> 01:06:35,370

And while we were
sitting there, they said,

1603

01:06:35,370 --> 01:06:39,010

we are going to be an AMG--

1604

01:06:39,010 --> 01:06:41,830

allied military government.

1605

01:06:41,830 --> 01:06:44,950

And the people who are
in that are all MPs who

1606

01:06:44,950 --> 01:06:47,230

are six feet tall and taller.

1607

01:06:47,230 --> 01:06:49,450

We will be in a
league with them,

1608
01:06:49,450 --> 01:06:53,590
and what we will do is when
the infantry goes through town,

1609
01:06:53,590 --> 01:06:56,020
we will go to city
hall and set up

1610
01:06:56,020 --> 01:06:58,210
the American
government in each town

1611
01:06:58,210 --> 01:07:01,450
that we're going through, OK?

1612
01:07:01,450 --> 01:07:02,650
Before we get there--

1613
01:07:02,650 --> 01:07:03,880
Yeah?

1614
01:07:03,880 --> 01:07:06,850
I want to go back to when
you're still on the boat.

1615
01:07:06,850 --> 01:07:08,600
Yes.

1616
01:07:08,600 --> 01:07:12,470
And they say-- and you think
you're going to England.

1617
01:07:12,470 --> 01:07:12,970
Yes.

1618
01:07:12,970 --> 01:07:14,755
But instead you're
diverted to France.

1619

01:07:14,755 --> 01:07:15,880
Well, we didn't know that.

1620
01:07:15,880 --> 01:07:16,710
You didn't know that.

1621
01:07:16,710 --> 01:07:16,980
No.

1622
01:07:16,980 --> 01:07:18,820
No all we knew was we were
going to-- in the war.

1623
01:07:18,820 --> 01:07:19,190
To Europe.

1624
01:07:19,190 --> 01:07:19,690
Yeah.

1625
01:07:19,690 --> 01:07:20,860
We were going somewhere.

1626
01:07:20,860 --> 01:07:24,580
So do you remember what's
in front of your eyes

1627
01:07:24,580 --> 01:07:28,025
the very first time you see
land after having gone over?

1628
01:07:28,025 --> 01:07:28,525
Oh.

1629
01:07:28,525 --> 01:07:28,840
Oh wow.

1630
01:07:28,840 --> 01:07:29,440
Boy are you bright.

1631
01:07:29,440 --> 01:07:30,357
What did it look like?

1632

01:07:30,357 --> 01:07:31,170

Here we go.

1633

01:07:31,170 --> 01:07:33,850

We're on this-- well, number
one, when I'm on the ship,

1634

01:07:33,850 --> 01:07:37,560

and I talked to one of
the sailors, and I said,

1635

01:07:37,560 --> 01:07:39,055

all those little boats.

1636

01:07:39,055 --> 01:07:42,640

And he said that this boat.

1637

01:07:42,640 --> 01:07:44,680

I said, it's this big.

1638

01:07:44,680 --> 01:07:45,750

He said, yeah.

1639

01:07:45,750 --> 01:07:47,070

All around us were the--

1640

01:07:47,070 --> 01:07:49,380

I swear when I saw it,
and I'm on a boat--

1641

01:07:49,380 --> 01:07:51,270

because the boat's like
a quarter of a mile

1642

01:07:51,270 --> 01:07:52,480

away from me like that.

1643

01:07:52,480 --> 01:07:52,660

Right.

1644

01:07:52,660 --> 01:07:53,160

Right.

1645
01:07:53,160 --> 01:07:54,930
And also they were
both out there

1646
01:07:54,930 --> 01:07:57,240
to protect us, because
Germany was shooting.

1647
01:07:57,240 --> 01:08:00,180
The submarines were blowing us
all up, which we didn't know,

1648
01:08:00,180 --> 01:08:02,250
but we had heard about.

1649
01:08:02,250 --> 01:08:05,610
When we got into Le
Havre, we were on the boat

1650
01:08:05,610 --> 01:08:07,800
for about a day and a half.

1651
01:08:07,800 --> 01:08:11,160
What we didn't know, again,
was we're supposed to be where?

1652
01:08:11,160 --> 01:08:13,080
England.

1653
01:08:13,080 --> 01:08:17,390
And we were going to go to a
place called Camp Lucky Strike.

1654
01:08:17,390 --> 01:08:19,760
And camp Lucky
Strike did not have

1655
01:08:19,760 --> 01:08:22,939
enough tents or cots for us.

1656

01:08:22,939 --> 01:08:25,100
And that was in
France, near Le Havre?

1657
01:08:25,100 --> 01:08:25,880
Le Havre.

1658
01:08:25,880 --> 01:08:27,649
Yes, camp Lucky Strike.

1659
01:08:27,649 --> 01:08:28,580
Wait.

1660
01:08:28,580 --> 01:08:31,700
In the middle of the night,
why, they say come on,

1661
01:08:31,700 --> 01:08:34,220
get off the boat at nighttime.

1662
01:08:34,220 --> 01:08:36,348
Because the enemy
had planes flying.

1663
01:08:36,348 --> 01:08:37,640
They didn't wanted them to see.

1664
01:08:37,640 --> 01:08:42,170
And we're in these big
GMC trucks, I remember.

1665
01:08:42,170 --> 01:08:46,160
And the next thing you
know we're someplace.

1666
01:08:46,160 --> 01:08:47,410
And they say, you go to sleep.

1667
01:08:47,410 --> 01:08:48,310
I said sleep where?

1668
01:08:48,310 --> 01:08:50,149

They said sleep on the ground.

1669

01:08:50,149 --> 01:08:53,870

So you get off the boat.

1670

01:08:53,870 --> 01:08:55,529

Is there a dock
for you to land at?

1671

01:08:55,529 --> 01:08:56,029

Oh, yeah.

1672

01:08:56,029 --> 01:08:58,479

Oh, Le Havre was full
of docks Oh, pardon me.

1673

01:08:58,479 --> 01:09:00,500

At Le Havre-- you
asked about Le Havre.

1674

01:09:00,500 --> 01:09:03,758

When we came into
Le Havre, Le Havre--

1675

01:09:03,758 --> 01:09:04,800

here we come in this way.

1676

01:09:04,800 --> 01:09:06,310

Le Havre was in front of me--

1677

01:09:06,310 --> 01:09:07,790

in front over here.

1678

01:09:07,790 --> 01:09:12,430

And all I could see were these
beautiful white buildings.

1679

01:09:12,430 --> 01:09:16,090

Lots of them, two stories
high, three stories high.

1680

01:09:16,090 --> 01:09:17,779

And I go like, wow.

1681
01:09:17,779 --> 01:09:19,340
I felt I was home.

1682
01:09:19,340 --> 01:09:23,520
When we got closer, you
could see through them.

1683
01:09:23,520 --> 01:09:24,050
Oh, wow.

1684
01:09:24,050 --> 01:09:25,870
They had all being bombed.

1685
01:09:25,870 --> 01:09:28,010
Every one of them was destroyed.

1686
01:09:28,010 --> 01:09:30,689
And that was my introduction
to the Le Havre.

1687
01:09:30,689 --> 01:09:31,189
Yes.

1688
01:09:31,189 --> 01:09:31,689
Oh, wow.

1689
01:09:31,689 --> 01:09:33,319
And that really set me up.

1690
01:09:33,319 --> 01:09:35,300
And the other one
was when we got off

1691
01:09:35,300 --> 01:09:37,370
in the middle of
the night, they said

1692
01:09:37,370 --> 01:09:39,120
go up here and walk around.

1693

01:09:39,120 --> 01:09:41,510

They said if you want to
drink, you can have a drink.

1694

01:09:41,510 --> 01:09:43,630

What do people drink?

1695

01:09:43,630 --> 01:09:44,260

Tell me.

1696

01:09:44,260 --> 01:09:45,250

Coffee.

1697

01:09:45,250 --> 01:09:46,870

I don't drink coffee.

1698

01:09:46,870 --> 01:09:48,760

I drink milk.

1699

01:09:48,760 --> 01:09:50,260

Never drank coffee.

1700

01:09:50,260 --> 01:09:51,540

Don't drink tea.

1701

01:09:51,540 --> 01:09:54,130

And so they put
it in my canteen.

1702

01:09:54,130 --> 01:09:55,352

And I go like, wow.

1703

01:09:55,352 --> 01:09:56,310

I go-- and it's coffee.

1704

01:09:56,310 --> 01:09:59,530

I go yuck, and spit
it out on the ground.

1705

01:09:59,530 --> 01:10:00,730

They said get lost.

1706
01:10:00,730 --> 01:10:01,540
Goodbye.

1707
01:10:01,540 --> 01:10:02,410
Next.

1708
01:10:02,410 --> 01:10:05,290
That was my introduction to
whatever it happened to be.

1709
01:10:05,290 --> 01:10:07,645
And then we went
again to Lucky Strike.

1710
01:10:07,645 --> 01:10:08,770
And we got to Lucky Strike.

1711
01:10:08,770 --> 01:10:10,090
We're there, we're
getting-- there were--

1712
01:10:10,090 --> 01:10:12,370
I don't know whether there were
100,000 people at Lucky Strike

1713
01:10:12,370 --> 01:10:14,370
or not, but there were
certainly 30,000, 40,000,

1714
01:10:14,370 --> 01:10:15,700
50,000 men there.

1715
01:10:15,700 --> 01:10:18,110
And when we get
there, as I said,

1716
01:10:18,110 --> 01:10:21,490
they did not have a tent for
us to put us in the tent.

1717
01:10:21,490 --> 01:10:23,170

And we had to sleep
on the ground.

1718
01:10:23,170 --> 01:10:26,890
And I learned after I'm there
like a day or so, there were--

1719
01:10:26,890 --> 01:10:30,070
there's a town, I don't
know, a mile or something

1720
01:10:30,070 --> 01:10:31,510
like that, or a city.

1721
01:10:31,510 --> 01:10:34,840
And I managed to get to the
city, and I bought newspapers.

1722
01:10:34,840 --> 01:10:38,380
And I brought newspapers back,
and I slept on newspapers.

1723
01:10:38,380 --> 01:10:40,450
And when the guys heard
that, too, everybody

1724
01:10:40,450 --> 01:10:41,830
ran down and started to do that.

1725
01:10:41,830 --> 01:10:43,720
And then finally
they got us tents,

1726
01:10:43,720 --> 01:10:45,580
and they finally got us cuts.

1727
01:10:45,580 --> 01:10:50,980
And, of course, the bathroom
there was a hole in the ground

1728
01:10:50,980 --> 01:10:52,620
this wide about
a half mile long.

1729
01:10:52,620 --> 01:10:53,520
Oh, my goodness.

1730
01:10:53,520 --> 01:10:55,030
And you did your thing--

1731
01:10:55,030 --> 01:10:57,940
you went out that in the
middle of the wintertime, when

1732
01:10:57,940 --> 01:10:58,840
it's raining.

1733
01:10:58,840 --> 01:11:00,200
You take your pants down.

1734
01:11:00,200 --> 01:11:00,700
Hello.

1735
01:11:00,700 --> 01:11:02,380
I mean, it was really lovely.

1736
01:11:02,380 --> 01:11:04,090
And the other
thing was the food,

1737
01:11:04,090 --> 01:11:07,210
because we didn't have any
food to eat when we were there.

1738
01:11:07,210 --> 01:11:08,290
We would have killed--

1739
01:11:08,290 --> 01:11:09,290
and there were signs--

1740
01:11:09,290 --> 01:11:14,530
white signs-- and it said
steal food you're dead.

1741

01:11:14,530 --> 01:11:16,280
I remember seeing them
all over the place.

1742
01:11:16,280 --> 01:11:18,960
They were about this big with
a stake in them in the ground.

1743
01:11:18,960 --> 01:11:20,470
All over.

1744
01:11:20,470 --> 01:11:21,860
And so guess what?

1745
01:11:21,860 --> 01:11:22,840
Nobody did, huh?

1746
01:11:22,840 --> 01:11:25,035
Nobody stole food, but we
were hungry all the time.

1747
01:11:25,035 --> 01:11:26,260
We were like help, help.

1748
01:11:26,260 --> 01:11:30,580
So tell me, do you remember
when you landed in the Le Havre?

1749
01:11:30,580 --> 01:11:34,060
If you say it's wintertime,
that's pretty late.

1750
01:11:34,060 --> 01:11:35,050
Yeah, we landed--

1751
01:11:35,050 --> 01:11:40,510

1752
01:11:40,510 --> 01:11:41,010
D-Day--

1753
01:11:41,010 --> 01:11:43,980

I think-- I'm guessing now.

1754
01:11:43,980 --> 01:11:45,180
I really don't know.

1755
01:11:45,180 --> 01:11:47,420
It would be in my book.

1756
01:11:47,420 --> 01:11:49,410
I'm thinking it
was in the winter.

1757
01:11:49,410 --> 01:11:52,200
I think probably we
landed sometime--

1758
01:11:52,200 --> 01:11:54,420
the invasion was when?

1759
01:11:54,420 --> 01:11:56,020
June 1944.

1760
01:11:56,020 --> 01:11:56,520
'44.

1761
01:11:56,520 --> 01:11:58,400
June 6th, I think it was.

1762
01:11:58,400 --> 01:11:59,430
'44.

1763
01:11:59,430 --> 01:11:59,940
Right.

1764
01:11:59,940 --> 01:12:04,540
Well, we came in '45, so
it was after the invasion.

1765
01:12:04,540 --> 01:12:06,077
So you landed in '45.

1766

01:12:06,077 --> 01:12:07,035
You know that for sure?

1767
01:12:07,035 --> 01:12:07,535
Yes.

1768
01:12:07,535 --> 01:12:08,160
That I know.

1769
01:12:08,160 --> 01:12:08,730
Yes.

1770
01:12:08,730 --> 01:12:09,230
Yes.

1771
01:12:09,230 --> 01:12:16,350
Because when we went in and
we went into the harbor,

1772
01:12:16,350 --> 01:12:18,870
and there were trucks that us
up in the middle of the night

1773
01:12:18,870 --> 01:12:22,360
and took us to
Camp Lucky Strike.

1774
01:12:22,360 --> 01:12:29,950
And hard to really remember.

1775
01:12:29,950 --> 01:12:31,710
OK, can you cut
for just a second?

1776
01:12:31,710 --> 01:12:32,370
Yeah.

1777
01:12:32,370 --> 01:12:36,400
You-- OK, so when did
you get to France?

1778
01:12:36,400 --> 01:12:38,140

About when?

1779

01:12:38,140 --> 01:12:41,180

I think late January 1945.

1780

01:12:41,180 --> 01:12:43,180

OK, so as you say,

it was wintertime.

1781

01:12:43,180 --> 01:12:44,200

Oh, believe me.

1782

01:12:44,200 --> 01:12:45,460

It was wintertime.

1783

01:12:45,460 --> 01:12:49,330

We had no clothes for

that weather either.

1784

01:12:49,330 --> 01:12:52,150

I remember having

wet shoes for months.

1785

01:12:52,150 --> 01:12:54,040

But that's so

incredible that you--

1786

01:12:54,040 --> 01:12:57,340

you had to be in Camp Lucky

Strike in the middle of winter.

1787

01:12:57,340 --> 01:12:57,850

Yes, ma'am.

1788

01:12:57,850 --> 01:12:58,910

With no tents?

1789

01:12:58,910 --> 01:12:59,410

Yes.

1790

01:12:59,410 --> 01:13:01,920

It was unbelievable.

1791
01:13:01,920 --> 01:13:04,260
When I think back about it,
as I said, you had no food.

1792
01:13:04,260 --> 01:13:06,280
We were freezing all the time.

1793
01:13:06,280 --> 01:13:07,000
But this--

1794
01:13:07,000 --> 01:13:09,940
How long did that last?

1795
01:13:09,940 --> 01:13:11,320
Months.

1796
01:13:11,320 --> 01:13:12,430
That's all I can remember.

1797
01:13:12,430 --> 01:13:13,110
It was a long while.

1798
01:13:13,110 --> 01:13:13,902
It was a long time.

1799
01:13:13,902 --> 01:13:16,090
I can remember saying to
myself, because I remember

1800
01:13:16,090 --> 01:13:19,120
my mother saying to me,
if you get your feet wet,

1801
01:13:19,120 --> 01:13:20,030
you'll have a cold--

1802
01:13:20,030 --> 01:13:21,550
your head wet.

1803
01:13:21,550 --> 01:13:24,308

And I kept saying I'm going to
have a cold, because we had--

1804
01:13:24,308 --> 01:13:25,850
I don't know if we'd
call them boots,

1805
01:13:25,850 --> 01:13:28,330
but they were high shoes
we wore in those days.

1806
01:13:28,330 --> 01:13:31,480
And even though you took
them off at nighttime

1807
01:13:31,480 --> 01:13:33,520
and you have put your
stockings on the next day

1808
01:13:33,520 --> 01:13:36,430
were dry, like two minutes
later your feet were wet.

1809
01:13:36,430 --> 01:13:38,110
They never they never got dry.

1810
01:13:38,110 --> 01:13:39,190
Yeah.

1811
01:13:39,190 --> 01:13:40,030
And did that happen?

1812
01:13:40,030 --> 01:13:42,340
Did a lot of soldiers get sick?

1813
01:13:42,340 --> 01:13:43,840
Of what I remember, yeah.

1814
01:13:43,840 --> 01:13:44,890
A lot of people--

1815
01:13:44,890 --> 01:13:49,040

a couple of them had anywhere
from that from tuberculosis

1816
01:13:49,040 --> 01:13:49,540
I think.

1817
01:13:49,540 --> 01:13:53,570

1818
01:13:53,570 --> 01:13:55,975
And so where did you go
from camp Lucky Strike?

1819
01:13:55,975 --> 01:14:00,330

1820
01:14:00,330 --> 01:14:03,420
You know, it's hard
for me to really know,

1821
01:14:03,420 --> 01:14:09,335
because when we were there--

1822
01:14:09,335 --> 01:14:11,530
of what I tried
to put in my head

1823
01:14:11,530 --> 01:14:14,310
the last couple of
days what happened.

1824
01:14:14,310 --> 01:14:18,330
All I remember is
that I was sleeping

1825
01:14:18,330 --> 01:14:23,010
in a haystack in
France, is what I think.

1826
01:14:23,010 --> 01:14:26,690
And we had-- again, two
bands were put together.

1827

01:14:26,690 --> 01:14:29,940

Was Stegg and Larsen.

1828

01:14:29,940 --> 01:14:32,400

were the officers--
warrant officers.

1829

01:14:32,400 --> 01:14:35,400

You had your trumpet with you?

1830

01:14:35,400 --> 01:14:37,770

No, the instruments--

1831

01:14:37,770 --> 01:14:39,960

I read it in the book here.

1832

01:14:39,960 --> 01:14:44,070

All the instruments were in
cases that they had somewhere,

1833

01:14:44,070 --> 01:14:47,195

but the instruments and all the
music I had written were there.

1834

01:14:47,195 --> 01:14:48,570

But I don't know
where they were.

1835

01:14:48,570 --> 01:14:50,180

We didn't have anything
to do with moving it all.

1836

01:14:50,180 --> 01:14:52,170

But somebody did
somewhere along the line.

1837

01:14:52,170 --> 01:14:54,270

Yes, they had everything.

1838

01:14:54,270 --> 01:14:57,810

And I remember having
them say take me down

1839
01:14:57,810 --> 01:15:00,660
to one of the towns,
and have breakfast.

1840
01:15:00,660 --> 01:15:02,580
And while I was
there, they said to me

1841
01:15:02,580 --> 01:15:08,730
that they were going to be
in this outfit called AMG.

1842
01:15:08,730 --> 01:15:09,760
And I said, what's that?

1843
01:15:09,760 --> 01:15:12,180
And they said it's Allied
Military Government.

1844
01:15:12,180 --> 01:15:17,460
And we want you to
keep a band together.

1845
01:15:17,460 --> 01:15:20,650
And I said OK.

1846
01:15:20,650 --> 01:15:25,760
And they said maybe if there
was a band playing, he said--

1847
01:15:25,760 --> 01:15:27,960
like the officer clubs
and things like that--

1848
01:15:27,960 --> 01:15:31,190
we'll be able to put back
a military band again

1849
01:15:31,190 --> 01:15:32,610
while the war is still on.

1850

01:15:32,610 --> 01:15:33,980
And so I said fine.

1851
01:15:33,980 --> 01:15:34,980
And somehow or another--

1852
01:15:34,980 --> 01:15:37,220
I don't remember exactly
how it happened--

1853
01:15:37,220 --> 01:15:41,350
but someone in
headquarters company

1854
01:15:41,350 --> 01:15:43,140
were the ones who
gave me information

1855
01:15:43,140 --> 01:15:44,790
on what I should do.

1856
01:15:44,790 --> 01:15:46,800
And that's where
in the beginning

1857
01:15:46,800 --> 01:15:51,330
I said to myself, well,
to put a band together,

1858
01:15:51,330 --> 01:15:53,940
how many musicians should I
take or something like that.

1859
01:15:53,940 --> 01:15:56,310
And they said,
well, a dance band

1860
01:15:56,310 --> 01:15:58,650
is three trumpets, two
trombones, five saxes,

1861
01:15:58,650 --> 01:16:00,430
four rhythm and so forth.

1862
01:16:00,430 --> 01:16:01,770
And I said, OK.

1863
01:16:01,770 --> 01:16:02,340
Now what?

1864
01:16:02,340 --> 01:16:06,360
And they said, well, you're
going to have transportation.

1865
01:16:06,360 --> 01:16:07,220
And I said I am?

1866
01:16:07,220 --> 01:16:08,430
And they said yes.

1867
01:16:08,430 --> 01:16:12,420
And they said tomorrow
we have two trucks that

1868
01:16:12,420 --> 01:16:15,670
are captured German trucks
that are going to be yours.

1869
01:16:15,670 --> 01:16:18,360
We're going to make
them American trucks.

1870
01:16:18,360 --> 01:16:20,370
And you're going to
need a couple of guys

1871
01:16:20,370 --> 01:16:21,272
that go with you.

1872
01:16:21,272 --> 01:16:22,980
And so as I remember,
there were a couple

1873
01:16:22,980 --> 01:16:24,690
of guys that were

in the band who

1874
01:16:24,690 --> 01:16:26,820
were really close
friends of mine who

1875
01:16:26,820 --> 01:16:28,290
wanted to drive and all.

1876
01:16:28,290 --> 01:16:30,630
Because I remember
taking truck lessons.

1877
01:16:30,630 --> 01:16:31,680
I'll never forget it.

1878
01:16:31,680 --> 01:16:34,740
I took truck lessons
in Colorado Springs,

1879
01:16:34,740 --> 01:16:38,580
and you had to drive down
an incline and up an incline

1880
01:16:38,580 --> 01:16:40,297
on the other side
and get out of it.

1881
01:16:40,297 --> 01:16:41,880
And I couldn't get
the truck to go up.

1882
01:16:41,880 --> 01:16:43,633
It went down.

1883
01:16:43,633 --> 01:16:45,300
So I said I don't
want to drive a truck.

1884
01:16:45,300 --> 01:16:48,640
And in those days, physically
too-- it was a job.

1885

01:16:48,640 --> 01:16:51,150

Anyway, but they had--

1886

01:16:51,150 --> 01:16:52,022

I know I had two.

1887

01:16:52,022 --> 01:16:53,730

There might have been
more, I don't know.

1888

01:16:53,730 --> 01:16:55,230

Plus the band members.

1889

01:16:55,230 --> 01:16:58,920

And so looking at the band, like
I have the picture over here

1890

01:16:58,920 --> 01:17:02,730

with the band, again, I had
three, two, or five, six,

1891

01:17:02,730 --> 01:17:03,598

seven, like that.

1892

01:17:03,598 --> 01:17:04,140

I don't know.

1893

01:17:04,140 --> 01:17:08,025

I had 30 or 40 people with me,
and I was in charge of them.

1894

01:17:08,025 --> 01:17:13,540

And does this mean that all
of you were excused from--

1895

01:17:13,540 --> 01:17:14,040

Fighting?

1896

01:17:14,040 --> 01:17:14,580

Fighting.

1897

01:17:14,580 --> 01:17:15,330
Yes.

1898
01:17:15,330 --> 01:17:21,070
We were to tour the front
lines and entertain the troops.

1899
01:17:21,070 --> 01:17:21,570
Wow.

1900
01:17:21,570 --> 01:17:23,090
And that's what we did.

1901
01:17:23,090 --> 01:17:26,750
And I have to tell
you, and you're a girl.

1902
01:17:26,750 --> 01:17:31,220
The next thing beside girls are
playing music that they loved.

1903
01:17:31,220 --> 01:17:34,970
When they heard our
music, believe me.

1904
01:17:34,970 --> 01:17:37,567
Like we were beyond
being captains

1905
01:17:37,567 --> 01:17:38,900
or whatever you want to call it.

1906
01:17:38,900 --> 01:17:41,030
We were the talk of the town.

1907
01:17:41,030 --> 01:17:42,680
Play it, because
when they heard songs

1908
01:17:42,680 --> 01:17:44,180
that we were playing
in those days--

1909

01:17:44,180 --> 01:17:47,630

were the songs that were
popular songs to them.

1910

01:17:47,630 --> 01:17:52,013

And everywhere we went,
from generals on down--

1911

01:17:52,013 --> 01:17:55,620

they'd come to and hug us, and
say thank you, thank you, thank

1912

01:17:55,620 --> 01:17:56,120

you.

1913

01:17:56,120 --> 01:17:56,780

Yes.

1914

01:17:56,780 --> 01:17:59,870

And so I was in charge
of that band like that.

1915

01:17:59,870 --> 01:18:02,450

And somehow they would tell
me where we were going to go.

1916

01:18:02,450 --> 01:18:03,800

And we would go there.

1917

01:18:03,800 --> 01:18:06,140

And I don't know how we
got there, because wherever

1918

01:18:06,140 --> 01:18:07,430

there was was nowhere.

1919

01:18:07,430 --> 01:18:08,100

Everywhere.

1920

01:18:08,100 --> 01:18:10,378

It was out in the field
someplace like that.

1921
01:18:10,378 --> 01:18:12,170
And again, I do have
some pictures in there

1922
01:18:12,170 --> 01:18:16,340
of my band playing nowhere
with thousands of guys around.

1923
01:18:16,340 --> 01:18:17,680
And of course again, my corps.

1924
01:18:17,680 --> 01:18:18,180
How amazing.

1925
01:18:18,180 --> 01:18:18,770
Oh, boy.

1926
01:18:18,770 --> 01:18:21,710
Well, so for morale it
must have been terrific.

1927
01:18:21,710 --> 01:18:23,965
That was the only thing we had.

1928
01:18:23,965 --> 01:18:24,590
Think about it.

1929
01:18:24,590 --> 01:18:25,548
There was nothing else.

1930
01:18:25,548 --> 01:18:27,890
Food was the only other
thing, or going home.

1931
01:18:27,890 --> 01:18:29,285
Please.

1932
01:18:29,285 --> 01:18:30,035
It was incredible.

1933

01:18:30,035 --> 01:18:33,380

Now by this point--

1934

01:18:33,380 --> 01:18:37,940

at this point do

you have some sense

1935

01:18:37,940 --> 01:18:41,040

of what kind of atrocities

have been committed in Germany?

1936

01:18:41,040 --> 01:18:41,540

No.

1937

01:18:41,540 --> 01:18:42,870

That is you're not there yet.

1938

01:18:42,870 --> 01:18:43,370

No.

1939

01:18:43,370 --> 01:18:45,878

You're just-- you're

still military,

1940

01:18:45,878 --> 01:18:46,920

and everything like that.

1941

01:18:46,920 --> 01:18:48,260

No.

1942

01:18:48,260 --> 01:18:49,540

If you can imagine this--

1943

01:18:49,540 --> 01:18:52,160

we're in Camp Lucky

Strike in tents,

1944

01:18:52,160 --> 01:18:56,240

and we are close to

where the minefields are.

1945

01:18:56,240 --> 01:18:59,720

And of what I read
later, that the Nazis had

1946
01:18:59,720 --> 01:19:03,050
put if not millions,
hundreds of thousands

1947
01:19:03,050 --> 01:19:06,290
of mines on the
coast in that area

1948
01:19:06,290 --> 01:19:10,140
to keep the English from
coming into that area.

1949
01:19:10,140 --> 01:19:12,680
And so there was a mine
every one foot like that.

1950
01:19:12,680 --> 01:19:15,950
And our job, along with
thousands of other good men,

1951
01:19:15,950 --> 01:19:20,030
were to go down on the beach
every day and dig up mines.

1952
01:19:20,030 --> 01:19:20,960
Oh, my gosh.

1953
01:19:20,960 --> 01:19:23,930
And you know what it's
like to dig up a landmine?

1954
01:19:23,930 --> 01:19:26,330
A land mine's about
the size of a plate,

1955
01:19:26,330 --> 01:19:29,180
and it's underground maybe
about three or four inches.

1956
01:19:29,180 --> 01:19:30,080

Hello.

1957

01:19:30,080 --> 01:19:33,950

And if you hit it,
you're dead, OK?

1958

01:19:33,950 --> 01:19:35,690

So how can you dig it up?

1959

01:19:35,690 --> 01:19:37,340

You are trained.

1960

01:19:37,340 --> 01:19:39,200

They gave us lessons.

1961

01:19:39,200 --> 01:19:41,650

And guess who didn't have to go?

1962

01:19:41,650 --> 01:19:42,890

You.

1963

01:19:42,890 --> 01:19:43,835

Where was I?

1964

01:19:43,835 --> 01:19:44,540

Where?

1965

01:19:44,540 --> 01:19:46,960

I was running music.

1966

01:19:46,960 --> 01:19:51,660

So music, which we talked
about a lot in your growing

1967

01:19:51,660 --> 01:19:52,160

up years--

1968

01:19:52,160 --> 01:19:52,930

Yeah.

1969

01:19:52,930 --> 01:19:54,850

--in many ways was your savior.

1970

01:19:54,850 --> 01:19:55,630

It was my savior.

1971

01:19:55,630 --> 01:19:57,280

I know that.

1972

01:19:57,280 --> 01:20:00,580

I mean, I could not believe it,
because the officers weren't

1973

01:20:00,580 --> 01:20:02,650

on the beaches
digging up things,

1974

01:20:02,650 --> 01:20:05,110

but people who were
in the regular army.

1975

01:20:05,110 --> 01:20:06,610

I mean, sergeants
who had spent all

1976

01:20:06,610 --> 01:20:10,060

that were down on their hands
and knees every day, maybe

1977

01:20:10,060 --> 01:20:13,335

moving two or three feet
to dig up a landmine.

1978

01:20:13,335 --> 01:20:14,710

And when they dug
up a land mine,

1979

01:20:14,710 --> 01:20:16,540

I mean, then you
had to explode it.

1980

01:20:16,540 --> 01:20:17,710

Hello.

1981

01:20:17,710 --> 01:20:19,000

How do you do that?

1982

01:20:19,000 --> 01:20:20,470

I mean, how do you dig it up?

1983

01:20:20,470 --> 01:20:21,490

And you don't know, huh?

1984

01:20:21,490 --> 01:20:22,323

I don't know either.

1985

01:20:22,323 --> 01:20:25,157

Because I went to classes
to learn how to do it,

1986

01:20:25,157 --> 01:20:26,740

and the guys who
were teaching classes

1987

01:20:26,740 --> 01:20:27,902

were fun guys all the time.

1988

01:20:27,902 --> 01:20:30,110

They were throwing the land
mines around like plates.

1989

01:20:30,110 --> 01:20:30,770

Here's a mine.

1990

01:20:30,770 --> 01:20:31,270

Catch it.

1991

01:20:31,270 --> 01:20:32,320

Isn't that fun?

1992

01:20:32,320 --> 01:20:33,760

Come on down on the beach.

1993

01:20:33,760 --> 01:20:36,190

But we didn't have plastic

things in those days.

1994

01:20:36,190 --> 01:20:39,140

I don't remember how
they touched them.

1995

01:20:39,140 --> 01:20:41,230

You certainly didn't
touch it with your hands.

1996

01:20:41,230 --> 01:20:44,115

To find out where it is, you had
to dig down somehow or another.

1997

01:20:44,115 --> 01:20:47,050

I always thanked god that
later on when I found out--

1998

01:20:47,050 --> 01:20:49,780

I didn't know exactly
what that was going to.

1999

01:20:49,780 --> 01:20:52,540

All I know, I didn't
go down on the beach.

2000

01:20:52,540 --> 01:20:54,310

I was back in it writing.

2001

01:20:54,310 --> 01:20:55,480

And I could write anywhere.

2002

01:20:55,480 --> 01:20:57,980

I could just sit down
and write the music out.

2003

01:20:57,980 --> 01:21:02,560

So when you were at
Camp Lucky Strike,

2004

01:21:02,560 --> 01:21:04,420

you say you spent
the winter there?

2005

01:21:04,420 --> 01:21:05,730

You spent several months there?

2006

01:21:05,730 --> 01:21:09,910

Well, we didn't spend

a long time there.

2007

01:21:09,910 --> 01:21:11,500

If we were there

a month or two, it

2008

01:21:11,500 --> 01:21:13,450

was a long time from

what I can remember.

2009

01:21:13,450 --> 01:21:15,820

And when you started

traveling with the band

2010

01:21:15,820 --> 01:21:18,910

that you put together, was

it or still wintertime?

2011

01:21:18,910 --> 01:21:19,410

Oh, yeah.

2012

01:21:19,410 --> 01:21:20,410

It was still wintertime?

2013

01:21:20,410 --> 01:21:21,010

Oh, yeah.

2014

01:21:21,010 --> 01:21:24,730

The weather was rotten all the

time when we were traveling.

2015

01:21:24,730 --> 01:21:25,600

Always.

2016

01:21:25,600 --> 01:21:28,903

And I remember--

I don't remember

2017

01:21:28,903 --> 01:21:30,070
what the trains were called.

2018

01:21:30,070 --> 01:21:32,410
There was a name for the
trains with numbers--

2019

01:21:32,410 --> 01:21:34,780
6th or 4, something like that.

2020

01:21:34,780 --> 01:21:40,442
Anyway there were trains that
carried equipment or boxcars.

2021

01:21:40,442 --> 01:21:41,650
Boxcars, something like that.

2022

01:21:41,650 --> 01:21:45,440
And we used to travel in the
boxcars where we were going.

2023

01:21:45,440 --> 01:21:47,255
And as I was saying
when they cast me

2024

01:21:47,255 --> 01:21:49,240
when I looked through
there, I remember

2025

01:21:49,240 --> 01:21:53,350
seeing buildings and
streets that I was there

2026

01:21:53,350 --> 01:21:55,150
by myself on a lot.

2027

01:21:55,150 --> 01:21:57,910
I just can't remember
why I was by myself.

2028

01:21:57,910 --> 01:22:01,450

But whatever it was, I was
treated special by people.

2029

01:22:01,450 --> 01:22:03,700

I don't understand why or
anything else like that,

2030

01:22:03,700 --> 01:22:06,370

but I was really very fortunate.

2031

01:22:06,370 --> 01:22:10,870

And when we finally
got to Germany,

2032

01:22:10,870 --> 01:22:16,040

and we were in Germany,
there were so many Germans

2033

01:22:16,040 --> 01:22:22,070

at that time who were kids,
because the Nazis or Hitler

2034

01:22:22,070 --> 01:22:24,380

like that put everybody
in the service.

2035

01:22:24,380 --> 01:22:27,650

I don't know how old you had to
be, but you could be 12 or 13

2036

01:22:27,650 --> 01:22:29,210

and you were in the army.

2037

01:22:29,210 --> 01:22:32,752

And I remember seeing
beautiful blonde boys.

2038

01:22:32,752 --> 01:22:34,460

I mean when I first
saw them-- you should

2039

01:22:34,460 --> 01:22:36,200

have blonde hair like that.

2040

01:22:36,200 --> 01:22:38,540

Kids walking with uniforms on.

2041

01:22:38,540 --> 01:22:41,810

They're children who were
coming to us like this--

2042

01:22:41,810 --> 01:22:42,920

take us.

2043

01:22:42,920 --> 01:22:45,300

Like they were prisoners.

2044

01:22:45,300 --> 01:22:47,140

They said what's
going on in the world?

2045

01:22:47,140 --> 01:22:47,750

Yeah.

2046

01:22:47,750 --> 01:22:52,470

And I did not see
anything bad with that--

2047

01:22:52,470 --> 01:22:55,280

what you're saying,
atrocities and all--

2048

01:22:55,280 --> 01:22:56,240

as I can remember.

2049

01:22:56,240 --> 01:23:01,670

I do remember being
in a building when

2050

01:23:01,670 --> 01:23:03,710

the Germans bombed us.

2051

01:23:03,710 --> 01:23:06,140

And they bombed a

building next door,

2052

01:23:06,140 --> 01:23:08,060

and I was blown across the room.

2053

01:23:08,060 --> 01:23:09,470

And I experienced that.

2054

01:23:09,470 --> 01:23:10,610

I was seated.

2055

01:23:10,610 --> 01:23:13,640

The room was, oh, about
as wide as this, I guess.

2056

01:23:13,640 --> 01:23:14,720

Or something like that.

2057

01:23:14,720 --> 01:23:16,940

And I was seated over
here, and it went off

2058

01:23:16,940 --> 01:23:18,040

in the building next door.

2059

01:23:18,040 --> 01:23:19,790

And then the whole
thing hit this building

2060

01:23:19,790 --> 01:23:21,950

and blew in and blew me
all the way over there.

2061

01:23:21,950 --> 01:23:23,750

But I was not hurt.

2062

01:23:23,750 --> 01:23:25,310

I got up, like, oh, my God.

2063

01:23:25,310 --> 01:23:26,090

That's what it is.

2064

01:23:26,090 --> 01:23:26,590

Yeah.

2065

01:23:26,590 --> 01:23:29,120

That was the only time I
experienced anything like that,

2066

01:23:29,120 --> 01:23:32,150

and I never had any German
guys with guns or anything

2067

01:23:32,150 --> 01:23:33,650

like that-- see
anybody like that.

2068

01:23:33,650 --> 01:23:37,130

So does that mean that you
were behind the front lines?

2069

01:23:37,130 --> 01:23:39,140

That you would travel
behind the front lines?

2070

01:23:39,140 --> 01:23:39,640

Yes.

2071

01:23:39,640 --> 01:23:41,960

We would go, and what
would happen would be

2072

01:23:41,960 --> 01:23:43,820

is that they would
bring the troops back

2073

01:23:43,820 --> 01:23:45,410

to give them a break.

2074

01:23:45,410 --> 01:23:48,000

And they would bring
them to theaters.

2075

01:23:48,000 --> 01:23:49,760

And we would play the theaters.

2076

01:23:49,760 --> 01:23:52,880

And talk about being
king of the road again.

2077

01:23:52,880 --> 01:23:56,300

When we played the
theaters, we were beyond.

2078

01:23:56,300 --> 01:23:58,280

And for whatever
it was like that,

2079

01:23:58,280 --> 01:24:01,340

this group, as I was saying
to you there, really played.

2080

01:24:01,340 --> 01:24:03,920

We played our hearts and
souls out for the men.

2081

01:24:03,920 --> 01:24:06,500

And again, we were playing
the songs that they loved.

2082

01:24:06,500 --> 01:24:09,910

And, you know, that was
the whole thing with us.

2083

01:24:09,910 --> 01:24:11,860

Yeah.

2084

01:24:11,860 --> 01:24:13,270

And so how did--

2085

01:24:13,270 --> 01:24:17,380

did you go further into Germany
the more time progressed?

2086

01:24:17,380 --> 01:24:18,040

Oh, yeah.

2087

01:24:18,040 --> 01:24:19,280

We kept going in there.

2088

01:24:19,280 --> 01:24:23,710

Well, you have--
all I can remember

2089

01:24:23,710 --> 01:24:32,000

in my head is remembering
when the president died.

2090

01:24:32,000 --> 01:24:35,920

And some guy was
a new president.

2091

01:24:35,920 --> 01:24:36,800

Truman?

2092

01:24:36,800 --> 01:24:38,050

Was that his name?

2093

01:24:38,050 --> 01:24:39,570

Who was he?

2094

01:24:39,570 --> 01:24:43,610

And then I found out he had a
drugstore or an apparel store,

2095

01:24:43,610 --> 01:24:44,780

or something like that.

2096

01:24:44,780 --> 01:24:46,100

And that's our president.

2097

01:24:46,100 --> 01:24:49,790

Because when Roosevelt
was president

2098

01:24:49,790 --> 01:24:51,650

through the depression
and all like that,

2099

01:24:51,650 --> 01:24:54,720

I can remember always
going to the barbershop.

2100

01:24:54,720 --> 01:24:59,630

And they had pictures this
big of Roosevelt everywhere.

2101

01:24:59,630 --> 01:25:00,950

Everywhere you saw them.

2102

01:25:00,950 --> 01:25:03,510

No one knew anything about his
illness or anything like that.

2103

01:25:03,510 --> 01:25:05,450

But you just saw
he was the father.

2104

01:25:05,450 --> 01:25:06,950

He was king of everything.

2105

01:25:06,950 --> 01:25:10,340

And when he said things,
you listened to him.

2106

01:25:10,340 --> 01:25:13,580

And when I heard that, and I
can remember I was somewhere

2107

01:25:13,580 --> 01:25:16,010

walking down the street,
and somehow or another

2108

01:25:16,010 --> 01:25:17,000

I was told that.

2109

01:25:17,000 --> 01:25:20,110

I remember walking into
a church that was open,

2110

01:25:20,110 --> 01:25:22,610

and I prayed, and go like, you know, I don't know who he is.

2111
01:25:22,610 --> 01:25:24,320
What's going to happen now?

2112
01:25:24,320 --> 01:25:28,280
And then, of course, the whole thing with Japan was coming up.

2113
01:25:28,280 --> 01:25:29,690
OK, but we're still--

2114
01:25:29,690 --> 01:25:35,840
I'd like to go back to when it's the late winter, early spring,

2115
01:25:35,840 --> 01:25:39,920
and you're touring with the band behind the front lines.

2116
01:25:39,920 --> 01:25:41,060
Yes.

2117
01:25:41,060 --> 01:25:41,970
We went to theaters.

2118
01:25:41,970 --> 01:25:42,845
You went to theaters.

2119
01:25:42,845 --> 01:25:44,540
And I had two trucks.

2120
01:25:44,540 --> 01:25:45,520
And you had two trucks.

2121
01:25:45,520 --> 01:25:46,020
OK.

2122
01:25:46,020 --> 01:25:49,490
And they would tell me where to go and give me the information.

2123
01:25:49,490 --> 01:25:52,460
And somebody would drive
us to where we were going.

2124
01:25:52,460 --> 01:25:55,190
And do you remember any of the
towns that you were through?

2125
01:25:55,190 --> 01:25:58,380
I see the names on there
of the towns, cities.

2126
01:25:58,380 --> 01:25:59,630
You know, I see and there is--

2127
01:25:59,630 --> 01:26:02,450
I remember Zwickau and I
remember different cities

2128
01:26:02,450 --> 01:26:04,050
I remember being in.

2129
01:26:04,050 --> 01:26:07,070
But I don't remember
anything about anything.

2130
01:26:07,070 --> 01:26:09,170
Again, there were
no men anywhere.

2131
01:26:09,170 --> 01:26:10,880
And wherever the women
or children were,

2132
01:26:10,880 --> 01:26:13,790
they didn't come out,
because they were the enemy.

2133
01:26:13,790 --> 01:26:15,310
So everybody was inside.

2134

01:26:15,310 --> 01:26:18,800
Wherever you went--
and destruction.

2135
01:26:18,800 --> 01:26:21,750
What did it look
like, these towns?

2136
01:26:21,750 --> 01:26:23,790
There's no way to explain it.

2137
01:26:23,790 --> 01:26:28,010
All I know is that two or
three things were interesting.

2138
01:26:28,010 --> 01:26:34,850
Number one, in France every
cellar had wine that they made.

2139
01:26:34,850 --> 01:26:39,047
And we had canteens, and
canteens were what, water?

2140
01:26:39,047 --> 01:26:40,130
We didn't drink the water.

2141
01:26:40,130 --> 01:26:41,910
We weren't allowed
to drink the water.

2142
01:26:41,910 --> 01:26:43,380
So what did we have?

2143
01:26:43,380 --> 01:26:44,570
We had grape wine.

2144
01:26:44,570 --> 01:26:46,240
Everybody was half
stoned all the time.

2145
01:26:46,240 --> 01:26:47,190
Yeah.

2146

01:26:47,190 --> 01:26:47,690

Oh, yeah.

2147

01:26:47,690 --> 01:26:51,090

Well, the canteen had
about a pint, you know.

2148

01:26:51,090 --> 01:26:52,550

And what was better
than drinking

2149

01:26:52,550 --> 01:26:54,050

in the morning and the night?

2150

01:26:54,050 --> 01:27:01,315

Everywhere in France we went,
but the houses were destroyed.

2151

01:27:01,315 --> 01:27:02,690

And when I say
destroyed, there's

2152

01:27:02,690 --> 01:27:04,070

no way you can explain it.

2153

01:27:04,070 --> 01:27:07,910

When you see them talking
about where they had a typhoon

2154

01:27:07,910 --> 01:27:10,310

or thunderstorm where
the buildings are just--

2155

01:27:10,310 --> 01:27:11,540

that's the way it was.

2156

01:27:11,540 --> 01:27:13,580

You couldn't even
go into the places.

2157

01:27:13,580 --> 01:27:17,930

But I do remember when I got

into Germany it was different.

2158

01:27:17,930 --> 01:27:19,130

Completely different.

2159

01:27:19,130 --> 01:27:20,000

How?

2160

01:27:20,000 --> 01:27:21,200

Rich.

2161

01:27:21,200 --> 01:27:21,920

Really.

2162

01:27:21,920 --> 01:27:26,900

The buildings, the houses,
the kitchens, the liquor--

2163

01:27:26,900 --> 01:27:27,750

everything.

2164

01:27:27,750 --> 01:27:31,490

Everywhere you went in
comparison to France,

2165

01:27:31,490 --> 01:27:33,500

they were poor.

2166

01:27:33,500 --> 01:27:35,870

And Germany, they were rich.

2167

01:27:35,870 --> 01:27:38,960

Everywhere we went into the
houses, no matter how beat up

2168

01:27:38,960 --> 01:27:42,260

it was, and I was in houses
like I wish I could live there.

2169

01:27:42,260 --> 01:27:43,460

They was so gorgeous.

2170

01:27:43,460 --> 01:27:44,740

We'd stay overnight in.

2171

01:27:44,740 --> 01:27:45,700

Yeah.

2172

01:27:45,700 --> 01:27:47,160

And then keep on going, huh?

2173

01:27:47,160 --> 01:27:48,260

Yeah.

2174

01:27:48,260 --> 01:27:52,060

Oh, I kept saying I
just can't remember.

2175

01:27:52,060 --> 01:27:55,220

And the guys I was with made it
great, because they were older.

2176

01:27:55,220 --> 01:27:57,470

And for whatever, they
respected what I was doing.

2177

01:27:57,470 --> 01:27:58,700

And when I said do
it, it was done.

2178

01:27:58,700 --> 01:27:59,090

That was it.

2179

01:27:59,090 --> 01:27:59,590

Goodbye.

2180

01:27:59,590 --> 01:28:00,660

What do you want to do?

2181

01:28:00,660 --> 01:28:02,000

Yeah.

2182

01:28:02,000 --> 01:28:03,530

So how did you get to Ohrdruf?

2183

01:28:03,530 --> 01:28:06,740

2184

01:28:06,740 --> 01:28:08,440

I don't know.

2185

01:28:08,440 --> 01:28:18,310

All I know is that we had
the GMC trucks, and we were--

2186

01:28:18,310 --> 01:28:22,030

everywhere we went that
I can remember my mind

2187

01:28:22,030 --> 01:28:23,830

was green grass--

2188

01:28:23,830 --> 01:28:25,420

seeing it everywhere.

2189

01:28:25,420 --> 01:28:30,670

And every road had very large
moats on the side of it.

2190

01:28:30,670 --> 01:28:34,420

I mean large-- about half
the size of the room.

2191

01:28:34,420 --> 01:28:35,190

Deep.

2192

01:28:35,190 --> 01:28:37,190

There were big enough
almost as that you

2193

01:28:37,190 --> 01:28:38,190

could drive a car in it.

2194

01:28:38,190 --> 01:28:40,120

So they were filled with water?

2195
01:28:40,120 --> 01:28:42,790
And many of them were,
and many of them weren't.

2196
01:28:42,790 --> 01:28:43,480
OK.

2197
01:28:43,480 --> 01:28:45,190
So there were like
trenches along this--

2198
01:28:45,190 --> 01:28:45,690
Trench.

2199
01:28:45,690 --> 01:28:48,640
It was a trench on each side
of the road, but it was big.

2200
01:28:48,640 --> 01:28:52,210
The trench could be maybe
from there over here wide.

2201
01:28:52,210 --> 01:28:53,003
And maybe--

2202
01:28:53,003 --> 01:28:53,920
Could be like 10 feet?

2203
01:28:53,920 --> 01:28:56,665
Seven, eight, nine feet deep.

2204
01:28:56,665 --> 01:28:57,290
Down like that.

2205
01:28:57,290 --> 01:28:59,150
So it could be like
10 or 12 feet across?

2206
01:28:59,150 --> 01:28:59,650
Yes.

2207

01:28:59,650 --> 01:29:01,090

And seven or eight feet deep.

2208

01:29:01,090 --> 01:29:01,265

Deep.

2209

01:29:01,265 --> 01:29:01,765

Yes.

2210

01:29:01,765 --> 01:29:03,490

On both sides of
the road everywhere.

2211

01:29:03,490 --> 01:29:05,380

Wherever we went,
that's what I saw--

2212

01:29:05,380 --> 01:29:06,830

the streets.

2213

01:29:06,830 --> 01:29:09,820

And when we got to Ohrdruf--

2214

01:29:09,820 --> 01:29:13,030

when we came to
Ohrdruf, we had, of

2215

01:29:13,030 --> 01:29:16,840

what I can remember,
two or three GMC trucks.

2216

01:29:16,840 --> 01:29:24,270

And when we got out of the
trucks, why, all we saw--

2217

01:29:24,270 --> 01:29:26,160

all I can remember
seeing, were--

2218

01:29:26,160 --> 01:29:27,120

I don't know.

2219

01:29:27,120 --> 01:29:29,020

I can't give you the
number, but many,

2220

01:29:29,020 --> 01:29:38,000

many, many people in the moats,
on the sides of the road, dead.

2221

01:29:38,000 --> 01:29:40,820

All of them were white--

2222

01:29:40,820 --> 01:29:42,320

dressed in white.

2223

01:29:42,320 --> 01:29:44,360

I don't know why, but
that's what it was.

2224

01:29:44,360 --> 01:29:47,030

What I remember, it looked look
like they were all bandaged up.

2225

01:29:47,030 --> 01:29:54,050

And when I say maybe 20 or 30 of
them were right in front of me

2226

01:29:54,050 --> 01:29:55,760

going into the town.

2227

01:29:55,760 --> 01:29:58,220

And as we went into
the town, everywhere

2228

01:29:58,220 --> 01:30:01,220

we went into the
town we saw this.

2229

01:30:01,220 --> 01:30:02,910

Corpses.

2230

01:30:02,910 --> 01:30:03,660

In Ohrdruf.

2231
01:30:03,660 --> 01:30:08,090
The people dead in
the sides of the--

2232
01:30:08,090 --> 01:30:09,980
and on the streets, too.

2233
01:30:09,980 --> 01:30:18,320
And of what I remember, I
talked to some people who

2234
01:30:18,320 --> 01:30:21,350
explained to me that Ohrdruf--

2235
01:30:21,350 --> 01:30:23,330
didn't use the
words-- but Ohrdruf

2236
01:30:23,330 --> 01:30:27,200
was an experimental
town by the Nazis

2237
01:30:27,200 --> 01:30:29,900
to kill their
prisoners-- the Russians

2238
01:30:29,900 --> 01:30:32,810
and the Jews, the
Americans, whatever.

2239
01:30:32,810 --> 01:30:38,840
And it was set up a
year before we came in.

2240
01:30:38,840 --> 01:30:40,460
I think I said March 15th--

2241
01:30:40,460 --> 01:30:42,110
March something like that--

2242
01:30:42,110 --> 01:30:43,490

is when we were there.

2243
01:30:43,490 --> 01:30:46,910
It was then a year
later, and it had

2244
01:30:46,910 --> 01:30:51,690
failed, because the people
were to work and make,

2245
01:30:51,690 --> 01:30:54,110
of what I had heard,
to make guns and things

2246
01:30:54,110 --> 01:30:55,820
like that-- ammunition.

2247
01:30:55,820 --> 01:30:58,430
And would work like
20 hours a day,

2248
01:30:58,430 --> 01:31:00,320
and got very little to eat.

2249
01:31:00,320 --> 01:31:02,680
And because they got
very little to eat,

2250
01:31:02,680 --> 01:31:04,700
the people did not grow.

2251
01:31:04,700 --> 01:31:07,730
And so most of the people
who were dead and so forth

2252
01:31:07,730 --> 01:31:08,720
were small.

2253
01:31:08,720 --> 01:31:11,270
Not midgets, but that was it.

2254
01:31:11,270 --> 01:31:18,110

And again, because they
didn't die fast enough,

2255
01:31:18,110 --> 01:31:20,270
then as I understand
that, then they

2256
01:31:20,270 --> 01:31:24,050
opened up other killer places
where they gassed everybody

2257
01:31:24,050 --> 01:31:24,687
to death.

2258
01:31:24,687 --> 01:31:26,020
We didn't know that at the time.

2259
01:31:26,020 --> 01:31:29,710
What we knew-- we had heard they
were sent to someplace else.

2260
01:31:29,710 --> 01:31:32,940
And that's what took
place with Ohrdruf.

2261
01:31:32,940 --> 01:31:36,680
So those people--
those corpses that you

2262
01:31:36,680 --> 01:31:42,590
saw that were in those
trenches and in front of you,

2263
01:31:42,590 --> 01:31:44,250
were they former prisoners?

2264
01:31:44,250 --> 01:31:44,750
Yes.

2265
01:31:44,750 --> 01:31:47,540
I thought that the former
Americans, for the most part.

2266

01:31:47,540 --> 01:31:48,860

And Russians.

2267

01:31:48,860 --> 01:31:50,180

That's what I had heard.

2268

01:31:50,180 --> 01:31:53,215

Because at the time
we were over there,

2269

01:31:53,215 --> 01:31:55,340

I don't know when we heard
the Russians are coming,

2270

01:31:55,340 --> 01:31:56,390

or whether that
was in the movie,

2271

01:31:56,390 --> 01:31:57,830

and I said yeah or something.

2272

01:31:57,830 --> 01:32:02,200

But I remember being
told about Russians,

2273

01:32:02,200 --> 01:32:04,270

and I remember meeting them.

2274

01:32:04,270 --> 01:32:04,830

And yes--

2275

01:32:04,830 --> 01:32:06,580

Live Russians.

2276

01:32:06,580 --> 01:32:10,200

I met Russians in the
theater, because I

2277

01:32:10,200 --> 01:32:12,220

had appeared in a
theater, and theaters

2278

01:32:12,220 --> 01:32:13,510
were beautiful in Germany.

2279

01:32:13,510 --> 01:32:15,550
It looked like Radio City.

2280

01:32:15,550 --> 01:32:18,300
And I remember
hearing them sing.

2281

01:32:18,300 --> 01:32:23,090
And I had never heard acapella
people sing like they sang.

2282

01:32:23,090 --> 01:32:24,820
I mean, number one,
they loved to sing,

2283

01:32:24,820 --> 01:32:25,960
and they were big guys.

2284

01:32:25,960 --> 01:32:28,990
And they sang their songs.

2285

01:32:28,990 --> 01:32:30,988
And we became friendly
immediately with guys.

2286

01:32:30,988 --> 01:32:33,280
They were hugging one another,
and going through there,

2287

01:32:33,280 --> 01:32:35,040
and thank you, thank
you, thank you.

2288

01:32:35,040 --> 01:32:36,370
Yeah.

2289

01:32:36,370 --> 01:32:39,160
How long did you
stay in Ohrdruf?

2290
01:32:39,160 --> 01:32:40,390
I don't know.

2291
01:32:40,390 --> 01:32:42,570
Did you drive through,
or did you stay there?

2292
01:32:42,570 --> 01:32:43,490
I don't remember.

2293
01:32:43,490 --> 01:32:45,010
I really don't remember.

2294
01:32:45,010 --> 01:32:47,110
Because all I remember--

2295
01:32:47,110 --> 01:32:50,800
wherever I went, I was playing
theaters with the band.

2296
01:32:50,800 --> 01:32:54,550
All I remember with seeing
all these kinds of things

2297
01:32:54,550 --> 01:32:56,580
was getting back in the music.

2298
01:32:56,580 --> 01:32:59,873
And I would just sing to
myself and turn it off.

2299
01:32:59,873 --> 01:33:01,540
Because number one,
you can smell death.

2300
01:33:01,540 --> 01:33:03,010
Have you ever smelled death?

2301
01:33:03,010 --> 01:33:03,510
Nope.

2302

01:33:03,510 --> 01:33:04,630

Nobody has done it.

2303

01:33:04,630 --> 01:33:06,640

I mean, how do you
explain that to somebody?

2304

01:33:06,640 --> 01:33:09,130

What does it smell like?

2305

01:33:09,130 --> 01:33:10,940

I can't tell you.

2306

01:33:10,940 --> 01:33:12,280

There's no way of knowing.

2307

01:33:12,280 --> 01:33:15,010

I know what it
smells like, though.

2308

01:33:15,010 --> 01:33:22,167

And all I remember was that
we went from there to Berlin,

2309

01:33:22,167 --> 01:33:24,250

and I remember in Berlin
was the first place where

2310

01:33:24,250 --> 01:33:25,600

I shot a couple people--

2311

01:33:25,600 --> 01:33:27,070

the Germans in Berlin.

2312

01:33:27,070 --> 01:33:28,980

Really.

2313

01:33:28,980 --> 01:33:32,830

And what had happened was
we were in a building.

2314

01:33:32,830 --> 01:33:36,250

And again I keep
saying '43 to myself.

2315

01:33:36,250 --> 01:33:40,890

People with me, and we
were three stories up

2316

01:33:40,890 --> 01:33:43,000

in a building in town.

2317

01:33:43,000 --> 01:33:47,560

And we were told that the
German officers were coming back

2318

01:33:47,560 --> 01:33:51,700

into town at midnight
every night to go home

2319

01:33:51,700 --> 01:33:54,610

or to go see their girlfriends
or whatever it happened to be.

2320

01:33:54,610 --> 01:33:56,410

And they would walk
past the building

2321

01:33:56,410 --> 01:33:59,740

where we were
living at the time.

2322

01:33:59,740 --> 01:34:03,665

And so we waited
in this building.

2323

01:34:03,665 --> 01:34:05,290

I think there were
either three or four

2324

01:34:05,290 --> 01:34:06,760

windows where we
had what we called

2325

01:34:06,760 --> 01:34:09,350
carbine rifles about that big.

2326
01:34:09,350 --> 01:34:13,630
And I remember that
two officers I saw

2327
01:34:13,630 --> 01:34:15,220
come walking down the street--

2328
01:34:15,220 --> 01:34:15,970
bang, bang.

2329
01:34:15,970 --> 01:34:17,270
I shot both of them.

2330
01:34:17,270 --> 01:34:18,330
And this was where?

2331
01:34:18,330 --> 01:34:18,980
Pardon me?

2332
01:34:18,980 --> 01:34:20,950
Where did this happen?

2333
01:34:20,950 --> 01:34:22,390
What place did this happen?

2334
01:34:22,390 --> 01:34:23,540
They were going home.

2335
01:34:23,540 --> 01:34:24,040
I know.

2336
01:34:24,040 --> 01:34:24,820
But where were you?

2337
01:34:24,820 --> 01:34:26,653
What place-- what was
the name if the place?

2338

01:34:26,653 --> 01:34:27,730

Oh, I was in a building.

2339

01:34:27,730 --> 01:34:29,740

Where was that building located?

2340

01:34:29,740 --> 01:34:30,430

What town?

2341

01:34:30,430 --> 01:34:32,290

Oh, it was in Berlin.

2342

01:34:32,290 --> 01:34:33,090

It was in Berlin?

2343

01:34:33,090 --> 01:34:33,820

Yeah.

2344

01:34:33,820 --> 01:34:35,260

Oh, I don't know.

2345

01:34:35,260 --> 01:34:36,040

I don't know.

2346

01:34:36,040 --> 01:34:42,920

But you know it was Berlin,
because it was the Russians who

2347

01:34:42,920 --> 01:34:44,858

liberated Berlin.

2348

01:34:44,858 --> 01:34:46,400

Was the Russians
who captured Berlin.

2349

01:34:46,400 --> 01:34:48,890

Well, I saw the Russians, so
that could have been Berlin.

2350

01:34:48,890 --> 01:34:49,910

I don't remember.

2351

01:34:49,910 --> 01:34:52,970

I just remember being in this
building in the middle of town

2352

01:34:52,970 --> 01:34:56,060

that was like going
into New York City.

2353

01:34:56,060 --> 01:35:01,280

Buildings all over the place
that we were sleeping in.

2354

01:35:01,280 --> 01:35:03,050

The war wasn't over yet.

2355

01:35:03,050 --> 01:35:03,820

No.

2356

01:35:03,820 --> 01:35:04,460

No.

2357

01:35:04,460 --> 01:35:06,140

And everybody was gone.

2358

01:35:06,140 --> 01:35:07,880

There were no people.

2359

01:35:07,880 --> 01:35:09,790

I mean, such a thing
as women and children

2360

01:35:09,790 --> 01:35:11,480

like that--
everybody would hide.

2361

01:35:11,480 --> 01:35:14,900

Because again, we
were their enemy,

2362

01:35:14,900 --> 01:35:17,270

and we were going to kill them.

2363

01:35:17,270 --> 01:35:22,040

I mean, I don't know what that feeling's like, but anyway

2364

01:35:22,040 --> 01:35:24,690

all I remember is just standing up in the window.

2365

01:35:24,690 --> 01:35:26,150

And I remember I had a carbine.

2366

01:35:26,150 --> 01:35:28,880

And when I fired the shots, the last shot

2367

01:35:28,880 --> 01:35:30,800

went out of the gun-- the carbine.

2368

01:35:30,800 --> 01:35:33,740

The clip fell out of the gun, and the clips

2369

01:35:33,740 --> 01:35:36,830

were made wrongly.

2370

01:35:36,830 --> 01:35:39,080

The clips were not big enough, so they stay in the gun

2371

01:35:39,080 --> 01:35:40,760

when you shot the gun.

2372

01:35:40,760 --> 01:35:42,095

That I learned.

2373

01:35:42,095 --> 01:35:43,970

I wanted to shoot everybody that was involved

2374

01:35:43,970 --> 01:35:45,290

with making guns at that time.

2375
01:35:45,290 --> 01:35:46,220
That I remember.

2376
01:35:46,220 --> 01:35:50,325

2377
01:35:50,325 --> 01:35:50,950
Let's go back--

2378
01:35:50,950 --> 01:35:57,660
Now if I may say so, then in the
morning the bodies were gone.

2379
01:35:57,660 --> 01:36:02,850
So the Germans who were in the
town there, whoever they were.

2380
01:36:02,850 --> 01:36:05,220
Or maybe they weren't dead.

2381
01:36:05,220 --> 01:36:07,170
Maybe I shot them
and they walked away.

2382
01:36:07,170 --> 01:36:08,380
I have no idea.

2383
01:36:08,380 --> 01:36:09,750
All I know is I did hit them.

2384
01:36:09,750 --> 01:36:14,660

2385
01:36:14,660 --> 01:36:17,020
Was that a strange
feeling for you?

2386
01:36:17,020 --> 01:36:18,550
Yeah.

2387

01:36:18,550 --> 01:36:19,050
Yeah.

2388
01:36:19,050 --> 01:36:21,383
A couple of the other guys
shot some other people, too--

2389
01:36:21,383 --> 01:36:22,350
other things there.

2390
01:36:22,350 --> 01:36:26,430
I got like, you know,
what are you going to do?

2391
01:36:26,430 --> 01:36:28,080
Well, we were brought here.

2392
01:36:28,080 --> 01:36:32,670
And I hadn't seen anything bad
yet, but then again I hadn't--

2393
01:36:32,670 --> 01:36:33,260
this is war.

2394
01:36:33,260 --> 01:36:34,302
You're supposed to fight.

2395
01:36:34,302 --> 01:36:35,430
This is my country.

2396
01:36:35,430 --> 01:36:37,980
Help, help, help.

2397
01:36:37,980 --> 01:36:42,150
But was this after
Ohrdruf or before Ohrdruf?

2398
01:36:42,150 --> 01:36:44,505
I don't know.

2399
01:36:44,505 --> 01:36:45,630
I believe I don't remember.

2400
01:36:45,630 --> 01:36:48,850

2401
01:36:48,850 --> 01:36:50,475
I seem to remember, too--

2402
01:36:50,475 --> 01:36:54,270

2403
01:36:54,270 --> 01:36:55,680
what do you call
it on the street

2404
01:36:55,680 --> 01:36:58,710
where you drive up to
the street and they

2405
01:36:58,710 --> 01:37:01,320
have a big thing that comes
down that's white like that?

2406
01:37:01,320 --> 01:37:02,940
It goes up and down,
and they usually

2407
01:37:02,940 --> 01:37:04,648
have a little building
near that runs it.

2408
01:37:04,648 --> 01:37:06,510
Like if you go across
a railroad crossing.

2409
01:37:06,510 --> 01:37:08,460
Yeah, one of those.

2410
01:37:08,460 --> 01:37:09,870
And I think that was Ohrdruf.

2411
01:37:09,870 --> 01:37:13,140
I think when I drove

up to that town,

2412

01:37:13,140 --> 01:37:16,410

that we had to go
through that, I think.

2413

01:37:16,410 --> 01:37:17,970

Because I remember
that in my head

2414

01:37:17,970 --> 01:37:21,090

all the time-- something that
put it together with Ohrdruf.

2415

01:37:21,090 --> 01:37:22,770

That's all I can remember.

2416

01:37:22,770 --> 01:37:24,370

I don't know how
long we were there,

2417

01:37:24,370 --> 01:37:26,078

whether we were there
for a day or a week

2418

01:37:26,078 --> 01:37:28,670

or whatever it happened to be.

2419

01:37:28,670 --> 01:37:30,560

Were the bodies always there?

2420

01:37:30,560 --> 01:37:31,080

Pardon me?

2421

01:37:31,080 --> 01:37:33,990

Those bodies-- were
they always there

2422

01:37:33,990 --> 01:37:35,700

during the time you
were in Ohrdruf?

2423

01:37:35,700 --> 01:37:37,230
Did anybody move them?

2424
01:37:37,230 --> 01:37:38,560
No.

2425
01:37:38,560 --> 01:37:39,310
Nobody moved them?

2426
01:37:39,310 --> 01:37:41,720
No.

2427
01:37:41,720 --> 01:37:46,040
Well, I would imagine
that the families

2428
01:37:46,040 --> 01:37:49,395
would come down and take
care of them and so forth.

2429
01:37:49,395 --> 01:37:50,520
That was the least we know.

2430
01:37:50,520 --> 01:37:51,770
They were the bad people.

2431
01:37:51,770 --> 01:37:52,810
That was all we knew.

2432
01:37:52,810 --> 01:37:55,610
No, in Ohrdruf we were
talking about the prisoners

2433
01:37:55,610 --> 01:37:56,330
that had been--

2434
01:37:56,330 --> 01:37:57,900
Oh, well, they were all dead.

2435
01:37:57,900 --> 01:37:58,400
I know.

2436

01:37:58,400 --> 01:38:00,470

Did anybody move them?

2437

01:38:00,470 --> 01:38:01,190

No.

2438

01:38:01,190 --> 01:38:02,340

When I was there, no.

2439

01:38:02,340 --> 01:38:04,550

They didn't do anything.

2440

01:38:04,550 --> 01:38:08,720

I know that other people came
in, other troops and others.

2441

01:38:08,720 --> 01:38:11,480

Because we were in the
89th Infantry, and then

2442

01:38:11,480 --> 01:38:14,150

the 89th infantry
band, as I said there,

2443

01:38:14,150 --> 01:38:16,100

got together with two
or three other bands

2444

01:38:16,100 --> 01:38:18,620

from other outfits
somehow or another.

2445

01:38:18,620 --> 01:38:27,880

And I was in charge of that,
and we were part of the army.

2446

01:38:27,880 --> 01:38:29,980

I know the 353rd was
one of the things

2447

01:38:29,980 --> 01:38:32,650

that we were part

of with the 89th.

2448

01:38:32,650 --> 01:38:34,390

And reading this over here--

2449

01:38:34,390 --> 01:38:38,230

because I didn't know who was
fighting who, or where it was.

2450

01:38:38,230 --> 01:38:42,130

And again, your officers
were never in the front.

2451

01:38:42,130 --> 01:38:44,980

The officers were
always back there.

2452

01:38:44,980 --> 01:38:49,275

So who explained to you what you
saw when you saw those corpses

2453

01:38:49,275 --> 01:38:50,400

along the side of the road?

2454

01:38:50,400 --> 01:38:51,580

Nobody.

2455

01:38:51,580 --> 01:38:56,050

But you said somebody told you
that they had been Russians.

2456

01:38:56,050 --> 01:38:57,220

Oh.

2457

01:38:57,220 --> 01:38:59,350

Who explained that to you?

2458

01:38:59,350 --> 01:39:00,310

I don't know.

2459

01:39:00,310 --> 01:39:03,850

No, I think some people in the

town, of what I can remember.

2460

01:39:03,850 --> 01:39:07,390

I remember talking to
somebody who was short.

2461

01:39:07,390 --> 01:39:09,580

That's all I can remember--
who could speak English.

2462

01:39:09,580 --> 01:39:12,420

And I studied two years
of German in high school,

2463

01:39:12,420 --> 01:39:15,437

and I couldn't say anything.

2464

01:39:15,437 --> 01:39:17,770

I felt I took German, I should
be able to say something.

2465

01:39:17,770 --> 01:39:19,390

And whatever I said, they
wondered what the hell

2466

01:39:19,390 --> 01:39:20,470

I was talking about--

2467

01:39:20,470 --> 01:39:22,610

they could speak
English, though.

2468

01:39:22,610 --> 01:39:23,390

Everybody.

2469

01:39:23,390 --> 01:39:24,940

Yeah.

2470

01:39:24,940 --> 01:39:30,610

And did you ever see as
many corpses in one place

2471

01:39:30,610 --> 01:39:31,850
as you saw here?

2472
01:39:31,850 --> 01:39:32,350
Oh, no.

2473
01:39:32,350 --> 01:39:33,110
Please, God.

2474
01:39:33,110 --> 01:39:33,870
No.

2475
01:39:33,870 --> 01:39:34,480
No.

2476
01:39:34,480 --> 01:39:35,260
That was it?

2477
01:39:35,260 --> 01:39:37,420
That was-- oh, please.

2478
01:39:37,420 --> 01:39:40,430
I mean, literally I can't
say hundreds like that.

2479
01:39:40,430 --> 01:39:45,898
There were 30, 40, 50 at least,
laying around in the moats

2480
01:39:45,898 --> 01:39:46,690
and on the streets.

2481
01:39:46,690 --> 01:39:48,230
Could you tell if they
were men or women?

2482
01:39:48,230 --> 01:39:48,730
Pardon me?

2483
01:39:48,730 --> 01:39:50,590
Could you tell if they
were men or women?

2484
01:39:50,590 --> 01:39:52,690
All I saw what I
thought were men.

2485
01:39:52,690 --> 01:39:55,510
I never saw any women
at all, and I never

2486
01:39:55,510 --> 01:39:56,860
saw any children either--

2487
01:39:56,860 --> 01:39:59,090
of what I could
see of the bodies.

2488
01:39:59,090 --> 01:39:59,590
Yeah.

2489
01:39:59,590 --> 01:40:00,340
That was it.

2490
01:40:00,340 --> 01:40:02,920
I never examined
or looked at it--

2491
01:40:02,920 --> 01:40:04,870
what was going on.

2492
01:40:04,870 --> 01:40:10,720
I do remember Stern.

2493
01:40:10,720 --> 01:40:13,450

2494
01:40:13,450 --> 01:40:16,090
In my band--

2495
01:40:16,090 --> 01:40:22,840
I had a dance band, and I also
had a vocal quartet or quintet

2496

01:40:22,840 --> 01:40:25,120
of guys who sang together.

2497

01:40:25,120 --> 01:40:28,660
And when we would perform, the
guys would get up and sing.

2498

01:40:28,660 --> 01:40:29,870
They were really good.

2499

01:40:29,870 --> 01:40:31,300
And there was a fellow--

2500

01:40:31,300 --> 01:40:35,590
David Stern had a heart attack.

2501

01:40:35,590 --> 01:40:38,050
One way or another,
dropped dead.

2502

01:40:38,050 --> 01:40:39,330
He was Jewish.

2503

01:40:39,330 --> 01:40:41,680
And when he went out,
somehow or another

2504

01:40:41,680 --> 01:40:44,910
he learned that what
he saw were Jews.

2505

01:40:44,910 --> 01:40:46,780
And he was a man of ours.

2506

01:40:46,780 --> 01:40:51,830
We were in our 20s, and he
had a heart attack and died.

2507

01:40:51,830 --> 01:40:53,974
That was one guy in my outfit.

2508

01:40:53,974 --> 01:40:54,474
Yeah.

2509
01:40:54,474 --> 01:40:57,400

2510
01:40:57,400 --> 01:41:03,760
When did you hear or learn
more about what had gone on?

2511
01:41:03,760 --> 01:41:05,650
About the Holocaust?

2512
01:41:05,650 --> 01:41:07,870
Were you still in
Germany at the time?

2513
01:41:07,870 --> 01:41:09,840
I don't know.

2514
01:41:09,840 --> 01:41:10,560
I don't know.

2515
01:41:10,560 --> 01:41:18,210
Because of, again, what
little I could remember,

2516
01:41:18,210 --> 01:41:20,460
we were in France.

2517
01:41:20,460 --> 01:41:23,650
And we went into
Germany during the war.

2518
01:41:23,650 --> 01:41:30,920
And I was somewhere,
and the war was over.

2519
01:41:30,920 --> 01:41:32,910
I don't know where I was.

2520
01:41:32,910 --> 01:41:37,380

But anyway, I was
back in France,

2521
01:41:37,380 --> 01:41:44,910
and I remember them
saying that married men,

2522
01:41:44,910 --> 01:41:51,990
men I think like 28 to 30,
men who had children at home--

2523
01:41:51,990 --> 01:41:53,610
wounded and so forth--

2524
01:41:53,610 --> 01:41:55,450
were going home.

2525
01:41:55,450 --> 01:41:58,165
And if you weren't, you
were going to Austria.

2526
01:41:58,165 --> 01:42:00,780

2527
01:42:00,780 --> 01:42:04,500
And I just can't remember
anything beyond that.

2528
01:42:04,500 --> 01:42:08,880
I don't know how or what, but
I do remember being on a train.

2529
01:42:08,880 --> 01:42:12,780
Next thing I know,
I'm in Linz, Austria.

2530
01:42:12,780 --> 01:42:15,780
And I don't know how
that happened either,

2531
01:42:15,780 --> 01:42:17,520
but I was in a building.

2532

01:42:17,520 --> 01:42:19,800

And again, I'm in music.

2533

01:42:19,800 --> 01:42:25,470

And somewhere on my
travel to Linz, Austria

2534

01:42:25,470 --> 01:42:27,780

I picked up a set
of vibraphones.

2535

01:42:27,780 --> 01:42:34,110

And vibraphones
are the steel notes

2536

01:42:34,110 --> 01:42:36,180

that have long tubes below it.

2537

01:42:36,180 --> 01:42:38,190

And they were in a big case.

2538

01:42:38,190 --> 01:42:40,050

I picked them up.

2539

01:42:40,050 --> 01:42:42,000

I couldn't carry them,
but somehow or another,

2540

01:42:42,000 --> 01:42:43,050

they were shipped with me.

2541

01:42:43,050 --> 01:42:44,250

Somehow or another
I got them shipped.

2542

01:42:44,250 --> 01:42:45,225

I don't know how.

2543

01:42:45,225 --> 01:42:47,460

And they were
shipped to Austria.

2544

01:42:47,460 --> 01:42:50,760

And in the building I was in
in Austria, I had vibraphones.

2545

01:42:50,760 --> 01:42:54,840

And so in no time at
all there, I go around,

2546

01:42:54,840 --> 01:42:59,100

and there was maybe
half a dozen guys

2547

01:42:59,100 --> 01:43:01,950

that I didn't know at all,
who were in different rooms

2548

01:43:01,950 --> 01:43:03,270

and so forth.

2549

01:43:03,270 --> 01:43:06,240

And I found out there
was a guitar player.

2550

01:43:06,240 --> 01:43:08,068

I found that there
was a bass player.

2551

01:43:08,068 --> 01:43:08,860

And I kept looking.

2552

01:43:08,860 --> 01:43:10,800

So when you were-- excuse
me for interrupting.

2553

01:43:10,800 --> 01:43:11,300

Yeah.

2554

01:43:11,300 --> 01:43:12,930

So it sounds to me
that at some point

2555

01:43:12,930 --> 01:43:16,140

your band that you played
for the troops was disbanded.

2556
01:43:16,140 --> 01:43:17,010
Oh, yeah.

2557
01:43:17,010 --> 01:43:17,760
Well, that was it.

2558
01:43:17,760 --> 01:43:19,000
They went home.

2559
01:43:19,000 --> 01:43:20,820
So that is--

2560
01:43:20,820 --> 01:43:23,250
Of what I remember, I
played up until the time

2561
01:43:23,250 --> 01:43:24,060
the war was over.

2562
01:43:24,060 --> 01:43:25,480
We entertained.

2563
01:43:25,480 --> 01:43:26,718
OK.

2564
01:43:26,718 --> 01:43:28,260
Of what I can think
in my mind, yeah.

2565
01:43:28,260 --> 01:43:30,010
And you don't remember
where you were when

2566
01:43:30,010 --> 01:43:31,680
you learned the war is ended?

2567
01:43:31,680 --> 01:43:34,830
That's in early May '45.

2568

01:43:34,830 --> 01:43:37,190

You don't remember if you
were in Berlin or Germany?

2569

01:43:37,190 --> 01:43:37,830

I don't know.

2570

01:43:37,830 --> 01:43:41,250

All I remember was
that it was over.

2571

01:43:41,250 --> 01:43:43,170

That's what I had heard.

2572

01:43:43,170 --> 01:43:48,400

And something to the effect
that the war in Japan was on,

2573

01:43:48,400 --> 01:43:50,580

and we were going to
be shipped to Japan.

2574

01:43:50,580 --> 01:43:54,430

And we were being shipped
back to France again.

2575

01:43:54,430 --> 01:43:57,870

And so the next thing I
know, I'm back in France.

2576

01:43:57,870 --> 01:44:01,680

And of what I can
remember, it was

2577

01:44:01,680 --> 01:44:03,960

back about where we
had come in, I believe.

2578

01:44:03,960 --> 01:44:05,760

I don't remember that much.

2579

01:44:05,760 --> 01:44:16,070

And then I remember tents
of guys who were going home.

2580

01:44:16,070 --> 01:44:20,210

And because I wasn't married,
and because I was too young,

2581

01:44:20,210 --> 01:44:22,040

and on and on and on.

2582

01:44:22,040 --> 01:44:29,060

And many, many of the men in
my outfit married German girls.

2583

01:44:29,060 --> 01:44:31,980

And along with that, they
brought their mothers--

2584

01:44:31,980 --> 01:44:33,560

the girls brought their mothers.

2585

01:44:33,560 --> 01:44:35,690

I had never heard
of such a thing,

2586

01:44:35,690 --> 01:44:37,910

but when you think
about it, again, what

2587

01:44:37,910 --> 01:44:40,940

could have been better to bring
the mothers back to America?

2588

01:44:40,940 --> 01:44:42,710

People had been brought
up with the Nazis

2589

01:44:42,710 --> 01:44:44,890

and lived starving to death.

2590

01:44:44,890 --> 01:44:47,090

You know, the whole--

2591

01:44:47,090 --> 01:44:49,170
was really sick in every way.

2592

01:44:49,170 --> 01:44:54,890
Yeah, many my friends married
and brought them back here.

2593

01:44:54,890 --> 01:44:59,600
And when you were sent
to Austria to Linz,

2594

01:44:59,600 --> 01:45:02,750
were you given certain
duties, or was your job again

2595

01:45:02,750 --> 01:45:06,310
to do something with the band?

2596

01:45:06,310 --> 01:45:08,960
Of what I remember, I
can't remember anything

2597

01:45:08,960 --> 01:45:12,110
except getting on a train,
ending up there, being

2598

01:45:12,110 --> 01:45:12,790
in a building.

2599

01:45:12,790 --> 01:45:14,180
That's all I can remember.

2600

01:45:14,180 --> 01:45:18,040
And somehow or another
I had the vibraphones.

2601

01:45:18,040 --> 01:45:19,250
And I don't know.

2602

01:45:19,250 --> 01:45:23,930
And in Linz, Austria,
they had an officer's club

2603
01:45:23,930 --> 01:45:26,090
called the Thunderbird Club.

2604
01:45:26,090 --> 01:45:31,370
And somehow or another I ended
up in the Thunderbird Club.

2605
01:45:31,370 --> 01:45:32,300
I mean, this is me.

2606
01:45:32,300 --> 01:45:33,830
I don't know how I got there.

2607
01:45:33,830 --> 01:45:36,410
And it was an officer's club.

2608
01:45:36,410 --> 01:45:40,620
And so who is treated better and
ate better and had more girls?

2609
01:45:40,620 --> 01:45:42,410
The Thunderbird Club.

2610
01:45:42,410 --> 01:45:46,040
And so every night,
where was I playing?

2611
01:45:46,040 --> 01:45:47,540
In the Thunderbird Club.

2612
01:45:47,540 --> 01:45:49,430
And I put together this group.

2613
01:45:49,430 --> 01:45:52,100
I played vibes,
because I knew chords.

2614
01:45:52,100 --> 01:45:54,410
I didn't play very well,
but I could hold the chords.

2615

01:45:54,410 --> 01:45:59,630

And I had drums, bass, guitar,
vibes, and tenor saxophone.

2616

01:45:59,630 --> 01:46:02,293

And again, I wrote the
music for the guys.

2617

01:46:02,293 --> 01:46:02,960

And that was it.

2618

01:46:02,960 --> 01:46:05,660

That was in Linz, Austria.

2619

01:46:05,660 --> 01:46:07,100

How long were you there?

2620

01:46:07,100 --> 01:46:08,120

A long time.

2621

01:46:08,120 --> 01:46:08,630

Really.

2622

01:46:08,630 --> 01:46:09,200

Oh, yeah.

2623

01:46:09,200 --> 01:46:12,020

2624

01:46:12,020 --> 01:46:14,730

Well, when was the war over?

2625

01:46:14,730 --> 01:46:19,430

May 8th or 9th, 1945.

2626

01:46:19,430 --> 01:46:24,740

I was out of the
army in '46 in March.

2627

01:46:24,740 --> 01:46:28,847

So you were there for almost

another year-- not quite.

2628

01:46:28,847 --> 01:46:30,180

I didn't know what was going on.

2629

01:46:30,180 --> 01:46:31,030

That was it.

2630

01:46:31,030 --> 01:46:33,650

And were you playing at the
officer's club all the time?

2631

01:46:33,650 --> 01:46:35,360

All the time, yeah.

2632

01:46:35,360 --> 01:46:37,280

I was living like a
king, of what I remember.

2633

01:46:37,280 --> 01:46:39,110

And what happened,
which was incredible,

2634

01:46:39,110 --> 01:46:44,600

too, was the fact that
now the Germans were back.

2635

01:46:44,600 --> 01:46:48,110

And who cooked better
than the Germans?

2636

01:46:48,110 --> 01:46:50,570

And everywhere we went,
or wherever I went there,

2637

01:46:50,570 --> 01:46:51,620

I ate like a king.

2638

01:46:51,620 --> 01:46:52,295

Forget about it.

2639

01:46:52,295 --> 01:46:53,920

I don't remember ever
bringing it back.

2640
01:46:53,920 --> 01:46:55,340
We didn't have
refrigerators or anything.

2641
01:46:55,340 --> 01:46:56,882
But I just remember
I mean, the food.

2642
01:46:56,882 --> 01:46:57,820
Like wow.

2643
01:46:57,820 --> 01:46:59,080
That's great.

2644
01:46:59,080 --> 01:47:02,570
And because they had been
enemies, and now they were us.

2645
01:47:02,570 --> 01:47:04,340
That was it was, right?

2646
01:47:04,340 --> 01:47:05,490
Yeah.

2647
01:47:05,490 --> 01:47:06,740
What was the countryside like?

2648
01:47:06,740 --> 01:47:09,140
Was there a lot of--

2649
01:47:09,140 --> 01:47:12,470
how shall I put it-- black
marketeering going on?

2650
01:47:12,470 --> 01:47:13,670
Yes.

2651
01:47:13,670 --> 01:47:14,750
How did you know that?

2652
01:47:14,750 --> 01:47:15,650
Yes, ma'am.

2653
01:47:15,650 --> 01:47:21,350
OK, here's what was going
on, if I can get it straight.

2654
01:47:21,350 --> 01:47:24,440
I really never could get
it all the pieces together.

2655
01:47:24,440 --> 01:47:33,380
We came back to France, and
we were living in an estate.

2656
01:47:33,380 --> 01:47:35,290
There's a picture of
it in the book there.

2657
01:47:35,290 --> 01:47:38,410
Not a building-- an estate
with a wall around it.

2658
01:47:38,410 --> 01:47:40,570
It was gorgeous.

2659
01:47:40,570 --> 01:47:43,970
I don't know how I ended up
there, but I ended up there.

2660
01:47:43,970 --> 01:47:49,270
And we learned that
because the war

2661
01:47:49,270 --> 01:47:54,790
was over now, the only money
that was worth money was who?

2662
01:47:54,790 --> 01:47:57,190
England and America.

2663

01:47:57,190 --> 01:48:00,060
France, Germany--
they were our enemy.

2664
01:48:00,060 --> 01:48:01,300
All their money was garbage.

2665
01:48:01,300 --> 01:48:02,500
Are you kidding?

2666
01:48:02,500 --> 01:48:06,470
OK, and so they would
destroy all their money.

2667
01:48:06,470 --> 01:48:07,960
But if you had American money--

2668
01:48:07,960 --> 01:48:11,210

2669
01:48:11,210 --> 01:48:18,580
if I'm guessing-- a \$5 bill
in France was worth \$25.

2670
01:48:18,580 --> 01:48:23,950
OK, so wherever you went
with \$5, you are like a king.

2671
01:48:23,950 --> 01:48:28,360
OK, everything was available
for American money.

2672
01:48:28,360 --> 01:48:36,620
And so my group would write
home and say please send money.

2673
01:48:36,620 --> 01:48:38,690
Everybody but me.

2674
01:48:38,690 --> 01:48:40,620
I knew it was wrong.

2675

01:48:40,620 --> 01:48:41,690
Boy was I mad.

2676
01:48:41,690 --> 01:48:45,590
Anyway, and now they would
take the American money

2677
01:48:45,590 --> 01:48:49,300
and go to England
and become rich.

2678
01:48:49,300 --> 01:48:50,440
To England?

2679
01:48:50,440 --> 01:48:55,810
England, because the pound in
England, instead of being \$5

2680
01:48:55,810 --> 01:48:56,485
was \$25.

2681
01:48:56,485 --> 01:49:00,040

2682
01:49:00,040 --> 01:49:04,510
So if you had American
money, you bought the pound,

2683
01:49:04,510 --> 01:49:05,670
and you took it to England.

2684
01:49:05,670 --> 01:49:08,140
And if you bought
25 pounds, you went

2685
01:49:08,140 --> 01:49:11,000
to England and you had 100--

2686
01:49:11,000 --> 01:49:15,410
well, hundred of dollars
in no time at all.

2687

01:49:15,410 --> 01:49:18,230
And I remember the man
who was in the barracks

2688
01:49:18,230 --> 01:49:21,280
with me, or in the room
where I was living with--

2689
01:49:21,280 --> 01:49:24,430
Nick Dallas was
around 30 years old.

2690
01:49:24,430 --> 01:49:26,120
Had a wife and family like that.

2691
01:49:26,120 --> 01:49:30,230
Built a cafe when he went
home, because we were there

2692
01:49:30,230 --> 01:49:32,000
for a year.

2693
01:49:32,000 --> 01:49:37,110
And sometime during the year,
the army learned about it.

2694
01:49:37,110 --> 01:49:39,540
And they said no--

2695
01:49:39,540 --> 01:49:42,930
no more people can do it.

2696
01:49:42,930 --> 01:49:45,060
Only officers can do it.

2697
01:49:45,060 --> 01:49:47,660

2698
01:49:47,660 --> 01:49:52,570
And so if you had
money, you're a captain,

2699

01:49:52,570 --> 01:49:54,610
and you're going home.

2700
01:49:54,610 --> 01:49:56,410
I have money.

2701
01:49:56,410 --> 01:50:01,600
OK, will you take home
my \$10,000 with you?

2702
01:50:01,600 --> 01:50:03,370
Because you could take it home.

2703
01:50:03,370 --> 01:50:06,960
I couldn't take it home.

2704
01:50:06,960 --> 01:50:10,760
I think I was allowed \$300.

2705
01:50:10,760 --> 01:50:12,930
Yes.

2706
01:50:12,930 --> 01:50:15,330
People didn't know
these little things.

2707
01:50:15,330 --> 01:50:16,290
Yes.

2708
01:50:16,290 --> 01:50:20,380
I'm still a little confused
about the currency exchange.

2709
01:50:20,380 --> 01:50:23,280
I mean, the black market
currency exchange.

2710
01:50:23,280 --> 01:50:25,110
Well, the money things
were very simple.

2711
01:50:25,110 --> 01:50:28,860

My mother would send me \$100.

2712

01:50:28,860 --> 01:50:30,010

They didn't in those days.

2713

01:50:30,010 --> 01:50:33,840

It's would be \$10 or \$15

or something like that.

2714

01:50:33,840 --> 01:50:39,010

And I would go to people

who were exchanging money,

2715

01:50:39,010 --> 01:50:41,820

and they were all over the

place on the black market.

2716

01:50:41,820 --> 01:50:43,260

And they would give you--

2717

01:50:43,260 --> 01:50:48,450

instead of being \$1 for \$1,

it was like five times as much

2718

01:50:48,450 --> 01:50:49,940

in their money--

2719

01:50:49,940 --> 01:50:51,600

in French money.

2720

01:50:51,600 --> 01:50:53,460

And you could take

the French money

2721

01:50:53,460 --> 01:50:55,950

and go to England

with it, and England

2722

01:50:55,950 --> 01:50:59,200

would pay you five times

as much for French money.

2723

01:50:59,200 --> 01:51:03,360
And so again, a \$5 bill would
be \$25 in England you would get.

2724
01:51:03,360 --> 01:51:06,150
And you could do it--
because you had a uniform,

2725
01:51:06,150 --> 01:51:09,300
you were allowed to
travel on buses on trains.

2726
01:51:09,300 --> 01:51:11,780
You could go anywhere
you wanted there.

2727
01:51:11,780 --> 01:51:13,740
I could go to England
10 times a month

2728
01:51:13,740 --> 01:51:16,170
if I wanted to, or
but back to Austria.

2729
01:51:16,170 --> 01:51:18,290
Because when the war
was over, that was it.

2730
01:51:18,290 --> 01:51:18,810
Yeah.

2731
01:51:18,810 --> 01:51:22,062
You had a uniform,
you were free, right?

2732
01:51:22,062 --> 01:51:24,220
Yeah.

2733
01:51:24,220 --> 01:51:26,000
And so people made
small fortunes.

2734
01:51:26,000 --> 01:51:26,870

They did.

2735

01:51:26,870 --> 01:51:30,500

Many, many, many--
thousands of officers

2736

01:51:30,500 --> 01:51:33,990

came home with
zillions of bucks.

2737

01:51:33,990 --> 01:51:36,630

Because as I said,
my one friend who

2738

01:51:36,630 --> 01:51:39,740

was a sergeant along
with me, but much older,

2739

01:51:39,740 --> 01:51:43,220

realized that was his
a way to make money.

2740

01:51:43,220 --> 01:51:46,650

Took home I don't know how much
money-- hundreds of thousands

2741

01:51:46,650 --> 01:51:48,100

of bucks, right?

2742

01:51:48,100 --> 01:51:48,600

Wow.

2743

01:51:48,600 --> 01:51:51,540

And there was no
problem at all, right?

2744

01:51:51,540 --> 01:51:52,860

Nobody talks about it.

2745

01:51:52,860 --> 01:51:57,090

Nobody talks about when
we went into the cities,

2746

01:51:57,090 --> 01:51:58,440
they had banks.

2747

01:51:58,440 --> 01:51:59,820
Really?

2748

01:51:59,820 --> 01:52:02,480
And guess what's in banks?

2749

01:52:02,480 --> 01:52:06,780
And if you opened a bank up
and you broke into the vault--

2750

01:52:06,780 --> 01:52:08,370
hello.

2751

01:52:08,370 --> 01:52:09,660
Did that happen?

2752

01:52:09,660 --> 01:52:12,330
Everywhere.

2753

01:52:12,330 --> 01:52:16,980
And was it not controlled
by the military then?

2754

01:52:16,980 --> 01:52:18,180
First come, first served.

2755

01:52:18,180 --> 01:52:20,950

2756

01:52:20,950 --> 01:52:22,280
I didn't think like that.

2757

01:52:22,280 --> 01:52:23,890
I didn't even know
where one was.

2758

01:52:23,890 --> 01:52:27,540
But the guys who were there--

2759
01:52:27,540 --> 01:52:30,610
what's the first thing you do
when you go into the country?

2760
01:52:30,610 --> 01:52:31,110
The bank.

2761
01:52:31,110 --> 01:52:34,060

2762
01:52:34,060 --> 01:52:34,560
Hello?

2763
01:52:34,560 --> 01:52:38,190

2764
01:52:38,190 --> 01:52:41,540
How much did we
just give you, Rod?

2765
01:52:41,540 --> 01:52:42,995
Huh?

2766
01:52:42,995 --> 01:52:44,120
A billion, billion dollars?

2767
01:52:44,120 --> 01:52:46,120
Pardon me.

2768
01:52:46,120 --> 01:52:50,810

2769
01:52:50,810 --> 01:52:51,590
I'm sorry.

2770
01:52:51,590 --> 01:52:52,250
No, no, no.

2771
01:52:52,250 --> 01:52:59,030
I'm thinking about did you

think much about or Ohrdruf.

2772

01:52:59,030 --> 01:53:00,230

And what you saw.

2773

01:53:00,230 --> 01:53:02,400

No, no, no.

2774

01:53:02,400 --> 01:53:03,430

Not at all.

2775

01:53:03,430 --> 01:53:04,670

I never did.

2776

01:53:04,670 --> 01:53:05,480

I never did.

2777

01:53:05,480 --> 01:53:08,420

All I had in my head was music.

2778

01:53:08,420 --> 01:53:10,150

I want to write,

I want to go home.

2779

01:53:10,150 --> 01:53:12,110

That's what I want to do
is music all the time.

2780

01:53:12,110 --> 01:53:12,890

Everywhere.

2781

01:53:12,890 --> 01:53:14,150

I still do.

2782

01:53:14,150 --> 01:53:16,550

Even when I wake up in the
morning, I'm writing music.

2783

01:53:16,550 --> 01:53:18,270

I turned-- I have learned.

2784

01:53:18,270 --> 01:53:19,590
And that's why I'm at my age--

2785
01:53:19,590 --> 01:53:22,520
I am the way I am,
because I managed to learn

2786
01:53:22,520 --> 01:53:24,170
how to turn this stuff off.

2787
01:53:24,170 --> 01:53:25,130
Otherwise I'd be dead.

2788
01:53:25,130 --> 01:53:26,150
Forget about it.

2789
01:53:26,150 --> 01:53:29,420
When I see these poor
kids coming back, and then

2790
01:53:29,420 --> 01:53:31,058
they're sending them up here.

2791
01:53:31,058 --> 01:53:32,600
What do they do with
these poor kids.

2792
01:53:32,600 --> 01:53:33,230
They saw death.

2793
01:53:33,230 --> 01:53:35,640
They lost their legs
and all this like that.

2794
01:53:35,640 --> 01:53:38,510
And I go to them get a job.

2795
01:53:38,510 --> 01:53:39,980
That's what to do.

2796
01:53:39,980 --> 01:53:41,810
Don't sit at home and

think about the war.

2797

01:53:41,810 --> 01:53:43,410

I don't care if you lost a leg.

2798

01:53:43,410 --> 01:53:45,530

So what else is new?

2799

01:53:45,530 --> 01:53:51,890

I saw yesterday on

TV a drummer who

2800

01:53:51,890 --> 01:53:53,930

came back and lost his arm--

2801

01:53:53,930 --> 01:53:55,700

this part of his arm.

2802

01:53:55,700 --> 01:53:58,920

He got a mechanical arm

with a computer in it

2803

01:53:58,920 --> 01:54:01,670

that plays drums.

2804

01:54:01,670 --> 01:54:05,150

He plays better drums

now than he ever played.

2805

01:54:05,150 --> 01:54:05,670

That's it.

2806

01:54:05,670 --> 01:54:08,210

This up here you've

got to turn it off.

2807

01:54:08,210 --> 01:54:09,710

That's right.

2808

01:54:09,710 --> 01:54:11,630

So but at some point

you turned it on

2809
01:54:11,630 --> 01:54:15,140
to be able to get in touch
with us, and at some point

2810
01:54:15,140 --> 01:54:18,030
you turned back on what
you saw in Ohrdruf.

2811
01:54:18,030 --> 01:54:19,400
Right.

2812
01:54:19,400 --> 01:54:24,590
What did it-- why was
it significant for you?

2813
01:54:24,590 --> 01:54:26,020
I don't know.

2814
01:54:26,020 --> 01:54:27,650
I don't know why
you're sitting here.

2815
01:54:27,650 --> 01:54:28,940
I don't even remember when.

2816
01:54:28,940 --> 01:54:30,092
I turned it off.

2817
01:54:30,092 --> 01:54:30,800
I don't know why.

2818
01:54:30,800 --> 01:54:33,650
I had to see something
or something in a paper

2819
01:54:33,650 --> 01:54:39,320
or on TV or something like that
that made me say get in touch

2820
01:54:39,320 --> 01:54:40,750
and say something about it--

2821
01:54:40,750 --> 01:54:42,530
that people should
know about it.

2822
01:54:42,530 --> 01:54:46,100
And Kathryn is a teacher,
and she's in everything.

2823
01:54:46,100 --> 01:54:49,700
And she found out
that in Washington

2824
01:54:49,700 --> 01:54:55,450
that there is the
whole works down there.

2825
01:54:55,450 --> 01:54:56,680
And I remember--

2826
01:54:56,680 --> 01:54:57,850
Kathryn is your wife.

2827
01:54:57,850 --> 01:55:01,540
I remember years ago-- we
have relatives down there who

2828
01:55:01,540 --> 01:55:06,370
invited us down to come see
all the things with the army

2829
01:55:06,370 --> 01:55:07,270
like that.

2830
01:55:07,270 --> 01:55:08,410
I don't go.

2831
01:55:08,410 --> 01:55:09,387
I said I've been there.

2832
01:55:09,387 --> 01:55:10,720
I don't have to go down and see.

2833
01:55:10,720 --> 01:55:11,428
What do you want?

2834
01:55:11,428 --> 01:55:12,010
To see what?

2835
01:55:12,010 --> 01:55:12,960
Forget about it.

2836
01:55:12,960 --> 01:55:15,710
Did you ever see any
other concentration camps?

2837
01:55:15,710 --> 01:55:16,450
No.

2838
01:55:16,450 --> 01:55:17,230
That was it.

2839
01:55:17,230 --> 01:55:17,980
That was it.

2840
01:55:17,980 --> 01:55:19,110
Yeah, that was it.

2841
01:55:19,110 --> 01:55:23,770

2842
01:55:23,770 --> 01:55:26,527
Well, thank you
very, very much--

2843
01:55:26,527 --> 01:55:28,485
You're welcome, you're
welcome, you're welcome.

2844
01:55:28,485 --> 01:55:31,980
--for sharing what sharing
did see with us today.

2845

01:55:31,980 --> 01:55:32,820
Yes, please.

2846
01:55:32,820 --> 01:55:34,395
Much appreciated.

2847
01:55:34,395 --> 01:55:37,290
And again, if I may say
so, I have it in my books,

2848
01:55:37,290 --> 01:55:39,090
and I keep saying
the same thing.

2849
01:55:39,090 --> 01:55:40,760
That I'm 93.

2850
01:55:40,760 --> 01:55:41,820
I can't believe it.

2851
01:55:41,820 --> 01:55:44,710
I still work, and this moment--

2852
01:55:44,710 --> 01:55:45,750
I was showing you--

2853
01:55:45,750 --> 01:55:47,430
I have my four Play
with a Pro books

2854
01:55:47,430 --> 01:55:50,380
that are on the net
all over the world.

2855
01:55:50,380 --> 01:55:52,020
Play with a Pro--
play your trumpet,

2856
01:55:52,020 --> 01:55:53,630
trombone, and so forth.

2857
01:55:53,630 --> 01:55:57,510

And if you can--

2858

01:55:57,510 --> 01:55:58,710

no?

2859

01:55:58,710 --> 01:55:59,700

Can't tell you.

2860

01:55:59,700 --> 01:56:00,200

OK.

2861

01:56:00,200 --> 01:56:02,154

No, that's-- excuse me.

2862

01:56:02,154 --> 01:56:03,110

Off.

2863

01:56:03,110 --> 01:56:03,800

OK.

2864

01:56:03,800 --> 01:56:05,010

Yeah.

2865

01:56:05,010 --> 01:56:08,085

Yes, I was saying before that
I'm 93, and I'm very well.

2866

01:56:08,085 --> 01:56:10,710

Never go to doctors, never take
medicine or anything like that.

2867

01:56:10,710 --> 01:56:14,190

But I've learned by playing
an instrument-- especially

2868

01:56:14,190 --> 01:56:15,510

I play piano.

2869

01:56:15,510 --> 01:56:20,130

But doing it when you're upset
or whatever it happens to be,

2870

01:56:20,130 --> 01:56:24,430

why, has been able to keep me
alive and well and everything.

2871

01:56:24,430 --> 01:56:26,100

And the same way
with my children.

2872

01:56:26,100 --> 01:56:28,890

They play, and it's keeping
this straight up here,

2873

01:56:28,890 --> 01:56:32,040

because it is hard to live today
with the world the way it is.

2874

01:56:32,040 --> 01:56:34,980

And being happy is
part of a whole life.

2875

01:56:34,980 --> 01:56:36,810

Enjoy it now please.

2876

01:56:36,810 --> 01:56:37,355

Thank you.

2877

01:56:37,355 --> 01:56:37,980

You're welcome.

2878

01:56:37,980 --> 01:56:39,702

Thank you very, very
much, Mr. Bower.

2879

01:56:39,702 --> 01:56:40,910

Oh, thank you for everything.

2880

01:56:40,910 --> 01:56:41,410

Really.

2881

01:56:41,410 --> 01:56:46,650

So with that, I'm going to
say this concludes the United

2882
01:56:46,650 --> 01:56:51,180
States Holocaust Memorial Museum
interview with Mr. Maurice

2883
01:56:51,180 --> 01:57:01,300
"Bugs" Bower on July 24th, 2015,
in Garden City Long Island.

2884
01:57:01,300 --> 01:57:01,800
Beautiful.

2885
01:57:01,800 --> 01:57:02,910
Thanks again.

2886
01:57:02,910 --> 01:57:03,630
Thank you.

2887
01:57:03,630 --> 01:57:06,370
OK, now there are--

2888
01:57:06,370 --> 01:57:07,070
OK.

2889
01:57:07,070 --> 01:57:07,570
Yes.

2890
01:57:07,570 --> 01:57:11,430
So tell me what is
the photograph that we

2891
01:57:11,430 --> 01:57:12,600
have in front of us now?

2892
01:57:12,600 --> 01:57:14,340
Explain what is that.

2893
01:57:14,340 --> 01:57:17,820
This was aircraft recognition.

2894
01:57:17,820 --> 01:57:23,340

During the war, we had to learn
as a soldier who the enemy was

2895

01:57:23,340 --> 01:57:27,150
and who the Americans were.

2896

01:57:27,150 --> 01:57:30,360
And so they had planes fly over.

2897

01:57:30,360 --> 01:57:34,200
This happened to be in
Camp Carson, Colorado--

2898

01:57:34,200 --> 01:57:36,780
Colorado Springs out
in the mountains.

2899

01:57:36,780 --> 01:57:41,070
And they would take us out
and had different enemy planes

2900

01:57:41,070 --> 01:57:44,070
fly over they had
captured and brought back.

2901

01:57:44,070 --> 01:57:46,620
And also they would
have our planes fly over

2902

01:57:46,620 --> 01:57:49,080
so that we would,
again, recognize

2903

01:57:49,080 --> 01:57:50,940
who to shoot our guns with.

2904

01:57:50,940 --> 01:57:53,480
Because when they
were low enough,

2905

01:57:53,480 --> 01:57:57,330
the rifles we had possibly
could shoot them down.

2906
01:57:57,330 --> 01:57:58,230
Yes.

2907
01:57:58,230 --> 01:57:59,190
Thank you.

2908
01:57:59,190 --> 01:58:00,900
Now we'll switch to--

2909
01:58:00,900 --> 01:58:04,770
OK, can you tell me about
this photograph here?

2910
01:58:04,770 --> 01:58:07,360
What's in this photograph?

2911
01:58:07,360 --> 01:58:14,310
Well of what I recall is
that when we saw this--

2912
01:58:14,310 --> 01:58:18,690
I had mentioned before, one
of our members in my outfit

2913
01:58:18,690 --> 01:58:20,430
had a heart attack.

2914
01:58:20,430 --> 01:58:25,200
And we did learn later
that the officers

2915
01:58:25,200 --> 01:58:28,020
who were involved under
General Eisenhower

2916
01:58:28,020 --> 01:58:34,700
that he ordered officers--

2917
01:58:34,700 --> 01:58:36,620
as many as they possibly could--

2918

01:58:36,620 --> 01:58:38,990

to come and view
this to understand

2919

01:58:38,990 --> 01:58:40,880

why we were fighting a war.

2920

01:58:40,880 --> 01:58:43,940

Because no one had ever
seen this kind of atrocity.

2921

01:58:43,940 --> 01:58:46,060

This was in what place?

2922

01:58:46,060 --> 01:58:46,900

Pardon me?

2923

01:58:46,900 --> 01:58:49,040

Where was this picture taken?

2924

01:58:49,040 --> 01:58:50,290

This is Ohrdruf.

2925

01:58:50,290 --> 01:58:51,310

This is Ohrdruf.

2926

01:58:51,310 --> 01:58:52,680

This is Ohrdruf, yes.

2927

01:58:52,680 --> 01:58:54,820

OK, these are the
things that you saw

2928

01:58:54,820 --> 01:58:59,590

and that other people in the
89th Infantry Division saw?

2929

01:58:59,590 --> 01:59:00,460

Yes.

2930

01:59:00,460 --> 01:59:01,190

Yes.

2931

01:59:01,190 --> 01:59:01,690

OK.

2932

01:59:01,690 --> 01:59:03,430

No one could believe it.

2933

01:59:03,430 --> 01:59:05,540

Still can't believe it,
because, as I said before,

2934

01:59:05,540 --> 01:59:06,610

my family's German.

2935

01:59:06,610 --> 01:59:08,140

Here we are, we're Germans.

2936

01:59:08,140 --> 01:59:11,870

And I do remember
talking to someone.

2937

01:59:11,870 --> 01:59:13,770

It's coming back to me.

2938

01:59:13,770 --> 01:59:17,710

So somebody who was a
man who was there, and he

2939

01:59:17,710 --> 01:59:21,740

was describing to me
what was happening.

2940

01:59:21,740 --> 01:59:24,200

And I kept thinking
to myself, well how

2941

01:59:24,200 --> 01:59:26,430

come it didn't happen to you?

2942

01:59:26,430 --> 01:59:27,950

But it never came about.

2943
01:59:27,950 --> 01:59:32,410
It seemed that in
this town that--

2944
01:59:32,410 --> 01:59:33,960
I'm just guessing is something.

2945
01:59:33,960 --> 01:59:37,250
But maybe if you're a lawyer
or a doctor or something--

2946
01:59:37,250 --> 01:59:39,320
a little above the
average person--

2947
01:59:39,320 --> 01:59:41,820
that you weren't
involved in this.

2948
01:59:41,820 --> 01:59:45,230
But there was a
definition of who

2949
01:59:45,230 --> 01:59:50,130
was going to suffer like this,
and be starved and worked

2950
01:59:50,130 --> 01:59:51,140
to death.

2951
01:59:51,140 --> 01:59:51,660
OK.

2952
01:59:51,660 --> 01:59:52,932
Yes.

2953
01:59:52,932 --> 01:59:54,680
OK.

2954
01:59:54,680 --> 01:59:57,750
So do you think they were

local townspeople who

2955

01:59:57,750 --> 02:00:01,460

were amongst these bodies,
or were they all foreigners?

2956

02:00:01,460 --> 02:00:03,030

I have no idea.

2957

02:00:03,030 --> 02:00:04,670

I have no idea.

2958

02:00:04,670 --> 02:00:09,580

Of what I've learned just from
the book that I have here,

2959

02:00:09,580 --> 02:00:12,620

the greater percentage
of them were prisoners,

2960

02:00:12,620 --> 02:00:16,220

meaning Americans and
Russians and whatever else.

2961

02:00:16,220 --> 02:00:17,150

And Jews.

2962

02:00:17,150 --> 02:00:19,850

And people, maybe--
probably plenty of people--

2963

02:00:19,850 --> 02:00:20,810

didn't want a war.

2964

02:00:20,810 --> 02:00:23,712

2965

02:00:23,712 --> 02:00:24,212

OK.

2966

02:00:24,212 --> 02:00:27,128

2967
02:00:27,128 --> 02:00:28,600
OK.

2968
02:00:28,600 --> 02:00:29,133
OK.

2969
02:00:29,133 --> 02:00:30,550
Tell us what's in
this photograph.

2970
02:00:30,550 --> 02:00:33,810
Well the middle one
is a band that I had.

2971
02:00:33,810 --> 02:00:37,690
Again, I was the everything--
the manager, the arranger,

2972
02:00:37,690 --> 02:00:39,220
the conductor and everything.

2973
02:00:39,220 --> 02:00:42,820
And this was in
France, and I remember

2974
02:00:42,820 --> 02:00:46,810
we were doing a radio show.

2975
02:00:46,810 --> 02:00:47,780
And we were doing it.

2976
02:00:47,780 --> 02:00:51,670
I think once a week, and we
were playing popular music

2977
02:00:51,670 --> 02:00:54,380
on the show.

2978
02:00:54,380 --> 02:00:58,810
And this is the picture
of the band that's here.

2979
02:00:58,810 --> 02:01:01,510
And then the other
picture of the small group

2980
02:01:01,510 --> 02:01:04,300
where I'm playing vibes with
the other musicians playing

2981
02:01:04,300 --> 02:01:08,540
guitar and bass and so
forth, was in Linz, Austria.

2982
02:01:08,540 --> 02:01:12,900
And that was in the officer's
club in Linz, Austria

2983
02:01:12,900 --> 02:01:15,220
that I was mentioning
before that we ended up

2984
02:01:15,220 --> 02:01:17,080
playing for years, I think.

2985
02:01:17,080 --> 02:01:19,390
That's the upper
right-hand corner.

2986
02:01:19,390 --> 02:01:20,570
The photograph there.

2987
02:01:20,570 --> 02:01:21,070
Yeah.

2988
02:01:21,070 --> 02:01:28,870

2989
02:01:28,870 --> 02:01:30,120
OK.