

Hilbert Margol

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Abstract

Hilbert Margol was born February 22, 1924 in Jacksonville, Florida with identical twin Howard, an older brother Melvin and a sister, Bernice. His parents came from Lithuania and married in the US. They spoke Yiddish and English and went into the retail business in a Black neighborhood. The family lived in a Jewish neighborhood and the boys attended public school. His father corresponded with his sister in Lithuania until the letters stopped when war began. The twins graduated high school June 1942 and entered the University of Florida and the ROTC program. Their unit was activated and on April 3, 1943 they went to Camp Blanding, Florida for indoctrination and then to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina for basic training. The brothers were sent to college for a few months to study engineering and the program ended. They were split off in early April '44 as Howard was ordered to the 110th Timber wolf unit in the Mohave Desert and Hilbert was sent to the 42nd Rainbow Division at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. While Hilbert was visiting his sick mother, Howard arrived summer '44 and, at first, thought he was acting crazy as did not realize they were twins. Hilbert relates other humorous events during his Army service. He was ordered to drive a Lieutenant and did so although had not passed a test so taught himself at that point. . In December '44 he left by troop train going north though Canada to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. They took a troop ship to Marseilles and were gunners in their first combat position near Strasburg. After the Battle of Wurzburg, they arrived in Schweinfurt as they were nearing Nuremberg. They were ordered to secure Schweinfurt and move on. . On April 29, 1945 they headed for Munich and were ordered to pull off to the right side of the road in a wooded area. The twins smelled a strong odor and investigated the area. Howard took photos of the inside of the boxcars where there were dead bodies in grotesque positions. Hilbert uses the photos for his talks at schools and synagogues. After the war ended, Hilbert learned that was Dachau and the prisoners were Jews. The war ended May 8th and from then in, he rode in trucks and the Germans were retreating. For the first time since he arrived in Marseilles, he slept in a house. Then had details. The first one he took ten prisoners and rode into the mountains above Salzburg and cut down trees for firewood. The second one, he drove a truck to Genoa and brought back grain by train for the German citizens. After the war, the twins finished college, and went into business selling housewares door-to-door. On April 29, 2015 he arrived in Munich for the opening of the new museum and met some survivors of Dachau.

Summary

- 00:00 Hilbert Margol was born February 22, 1924 in Jacksonville, Florida with Howard, a 10 minute younger identical twin, older brother Melvin (not living) and a sister, Bernice. His father was born Morris Margolis in Pushwat (?), Lithuania and his mother was born Sarah Bernstein in the Kabernia region in Lithuania and moved to Baltimore. His brother, Howard made the family tree back to the 1800s. At fifteen, his father exhausted the education available in Lithuania and moved to London and lived with a sister and brother for two years. Around 1913 or 1914 he came to the US. He came from a large family. Hilbert met a cousin in London and a first cousin once came to Jacksonville. His father was sponsored by a cousin in Connecticut and came through Ellis Island to his cousin's farm in Connecticut. He found out that a Hebrew School teacher was needed in Jacksonville so filled the position.
- 05:00 The pay was so little so he became an ice peddler and got married to Sarah who was from Baltimore and visiting her cousin in Jacksonville. Hilbert's father decided to open a men and ladies' clothing store. He was not called up for World War I, perhaps because he was not a citizen. Besides the siblings in London, his father had a brother and sister in Johannesburg, South Africa. A younger sister, husband and several children remained in Lithuania. Hilbert's father corresponded with her until the war started when he stopped receiving letters. Hilbert had been told that his father had come to the US to attend medical school but did not have sufficient money. Hilbert's mother had two sisters and six brothers who all ended up in Baltimore. One sister married Morris Mainey (?) from Leadville, PA. who was related to the Levitz family and created the Levitz furniture chain. Hilbert's favorite uncle was Jack Bernstein as he had more contact with him than other relatives. Jack was the most successful so was a favorite.
- 10:00 He was wealthy as had invested in real estate and was civic minded in Richmond and in the State of Israel where he was honored. He bought the Exodus and two Constellation airplanes that ended up in the Israeli Air Force. His dress shop became a chain of dress shops in Virginia and North Carolina. Hilbert's mother asked him why he bought the airplanes and he responded that he needed to fly around to his stores and wanted to learn the airplane business. The airplanes were broken down and shipped to Israel before '48 as machinery and reassembled in Israel. Hilbert visited him. He still has a son living in Richmond. In his Richmond office, his Uncle Jack had an enlarged photo of him with Ben Gurion standing on the steps of one of the Constellation airplanes. Jack wanted his grandmother to move from Baltimore to Richmond so bought an estate and donated it as the Jewish Old Age Home so she would have a kosher home to live in. He became a member of Israel Bond Boards but left a couple of years ago but still invests in Israel bonds. Since Hilbert and Howard were born on George Washington's birthday, when they saw a parade in Jacksonville on February 22nd when they were six or seven, they thought it was in honor of them.

- 15:00 They lived in a 2-family house in a Jewish neighborhood at 316 Jefferson Street. They lived downstairs and another family lived upstairs. Melvin was studying for his Bar Mitzvah with three other students and a teacher almost daily in their house. Their street paralleled Broad Street which was near the kosher meat market. The Jewish community was separated. Their area was mostly Jews from Poland, Lithuania and Russia. Another area were Reformed Jews with their Temple, most were well-to-do and some were from Germany. There was a distinction between the two. The Reform people considered Hilbert's area lower class. Hilbert and Howard were Boy Scouts. Harry Cohen's Department store had the franchise to sell Boy Scout uniforms and equipment. Hilbert's mother asked if he would donate to Troop 14, their troop, and he refused in a rude way. His mother was not welcomed though she shopped there. It was the only large department store and covered a city block. The Germans might have come earlier than the East Europeans.
- 20:00 Hilbert's parents spoke English and Yiddish at home. He was unable to speak Yiddish in the Army but understood some and later picked it up in Europe. His parents spoke Yiddish in their store. It was located in a black district with five stores owned by Jews so there was some competition. Each store was a little different. If Hilbert wanted to see his father, he went to the store. His father walked miles to get to the store and miles back home. The store was open on Saturday, the busiest day as there was no school. They never closed before 11 PM. You could see the other merchants on the sidewalk looking to see if there were any customers walking on the street. It was Depression years so a customer was valuable. They had declared Veterans' bonus. His parents had a reputation for honesty. All the customers were black. Those who received their bonuses gave them to his father to hold in case they got drunk and spent it all. In their store they had a black plain clothes detective though they were not supposed to have black employees.
- 25:00 One Saturday night they had 100 or more people on the dance floor in the Two Spot Nightclub. A shot rang out and someone was killed but there were no witnesses. If someone spoke up and said who the shooter was, they would fear for their life. There was difficulty in finding the perpetrator. In their store, they always had at least one black salesperson, usually a male but once a female. In later years when things changed and segregation ended, there was no problem for them as they were used to being with black people as lived with them. There was only one restaurant that his father would eat at which was across the street, "Jackson's Bakery." The Café was owned and operated by a Black couple where his father ate his lunch as it was a clean establishment. Next door was Anderson's Smoke Shop. His father smoked cigars and a pipe. He prepared Mr. Anderson's tax return and, in return, he was given a box of cigars and a can of smoking tobacco. Anderson owned Jacksonville's Black baseball team and Hilbert's father became a baseball fan. Hilbert would see baseball players at Anderson's Shop which was also a shoe shine parlor. He and Howard became baseball fans. Occasionally they went

with their father to the white baseball game. They went to a public school. They could not afford private school. When he started grammar school, the family moved to Springfield which was a heavily populated Jewish neighborhood. They built a new synagogue.

- 30:00 It was a mixed neighborhood, about 50/50 Jewish and non-Jewish. Everyone was very friendly, especially during the Depression. Everyone knew their neighbors on the block and around the corner. The children played together. In 2nd or 3rd grade, he entered a different school. They did not have a car during the Depression so his father walked. When things got better, his mother borrowed money from his uncle, the father's brother who he brought over from Lithuania. He was in the scrap metal business. His mother bought their first car before the war. Before the Depression, his father bought an Oldsmobile which had a canvas window with a button to close it and plastic inserts on the canvas top. When his sister was born, his father brought the mother and baby home from the hospital in the Oldsmobile. She was six years younger than him. His father lost the car during the Depression. They bought a Marmande car which is now out of business. First is father continued walking. The store was closed on Sunday.
- 35:00 His father operated the store on Saturday so he could not attend services. They closed the store for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to attend services. When he and his brother were Bar Mitzvah, his father had an Aliyah and made the blessing before and after the Torah reading. His father had the knowledge as he planned to be a Hebrew school teacher. There was no facility in Lithuania for higher learning so his father went to London. Hilbert does not know what business his grandfather was in. One Saturday afternoon a red-headed large man came into the store and his father greeted him profusely. He said he came from Pushawat (?), Lithuania where the synagogue burned down and he came to Jacksonville to collect money to rebuild it. Jacksonville had a large number of families from Pushawat (?). His mother was president of the Pushwat Society. Some families from Pushawat (?) had stores.
- 40:00 Many offspring still live in Jacksonville. Hilbert heard about Hitler when he was in 10th or 11th grade. He was 15 or 16 around '39. They would go to the movies in downtown Jacksonville and heard the news from the Foxtone news more than from his radio. He remember December 7, 1941, a Sunday morning when the President spoke and it was a shock to most families. He was a senior in high school preparing for graduation. He graduated June '42. Before that, the President's administration started the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). There was a young Jewish doctor Rose who received his MD from Howard University so was not recognized as a doctor in the South. Lusby, Florida near Lake City had National Forest members in the CCC working with the forest rangers. The doctor worked for them and lived with Hilbert's family on the weekend. They had a small house but everyone fit in as some could sleep on the floor. They had relatives from Richmond and Baltimore visit them.

- 45:00 His father corresponded with his sister in Lithuania in Yiddish and shared the letters with Hilbert's mother. They did not know why the letters stopped until years later when Howard found out what happened to them. After graduation, Hilbert thought of the military. He had turned 18 in February so had to register. He had 10 days to enter the University of Florida 80 or 90 miles away. It was on a well-traveled two-lane highway to Gainesville. He and Howard joined the ROTC unit using horse-drawn artillery. The uniform was riding pants and used 105 mm. Howitzers and they trained as gunners. Their rifle was made of wood so it was just something to carry when they marched. In their freshman year, the Army added additional ROTC students to the reserve unit and said if you join the unit, you can finish college so he and Howard joined the Army reserve unit. In October '42 the unit was called to active duty but they were permitted to remain in college a few months. On April 3, 1943 he went to Camp Blanding, Florida. He got a few days indoctrination and then to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina for basic training with 105 Howitzers as gunners with real rifles. There were no horses as it was all mechanized.
- 50:00 After 13 weeks he was offered OCS, Officers Candidate School for three months to become a 2nd Lieutenant, a "90-day wonder." He was afraid that he and Howard would be split up so joined the Army STP (Specialized Training Program) which sent them to college to study engineering as it was felt the country would be short of engineers after the war. They were sent to the Citadel in South Carolina. It was a horrible experience as the barracks were like prison with a locked metal gate. It was only unlocked at certain times. They spent four days to a week there and then to Syracuse University for courses in engineering, calculus and trigonometry. Then they were transferred in January '44 to the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois. They were there for three months when the program was disbanded. They were split up in early April '44 when Howard was ordered to the 104th Timberwolf unit in the Mohave Desert to train for Africa and he was sent to the 42nd Rainbow Division at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. He was put in the Infantry and after several months was trained on the M1 rifle and qualified as expert marksman. He was moved to the 392nd Field Artillery Battalion, B Battery as a gunner. Howard was moved from Mohave to Colorado for mountain training and requested to transfer to Hilbert's unit and the request was granted.
- 55:00 After the Sullivan brothers sank on the same ship, it was ruled that brothers cannot serve together. Hilbert and Howard wanted to serve together as they thought if one ended in misfortune, the other brother could tell the family what really happened and, furthermore, if you have a brother close, you have someone you can trust. Their mother decided that if that was what they wanted, then she wanted it, too. Howard asked his mother to write to President Roosevelt to permit them to be together and the President's aide, a 2-star general, replied that her request was granted. Howard got orders to transfer to Hilbert's division. Howard was therefore traveling by train when his mother got bitten by a rat and

was extremely ill. Since Howard could not be located, Hilbert received a 10-day pass to visit his mother. She survived. Howard arrived at Hilbert's unit wearing a gun uniform, the men presumed he was Hilbert. They would not believe he was his twin brother, Howard. They thought it was Hilbert acting crazy, trying to get out on a Section 8. Howard received dirty details until he was able to convince them he was Hilbert's twin. Hilbert's serial number is: 1407736 which is just one number apart from Howard's.

60:00 Hilbert said that you remember your serial number as every month you recite your number on payday. You repeat it for three years, it is easy to remember. Hilbert received \$21 a month and when he went overseas the pay was \$27 or \$28 a month. There was a deduction for life insurance and for money that was sent home. He used the leftover money in the PX for candy. Hilbert only smoked when he was 9 or 10. He used his father's cigar and lit up in the garage and got nauseous so he never smoked again. His twin arrived summer '44. Howard was on maneuvers were in Oklahoma where he fell asleep on guard duty and the lieutenant woke him up. He was told that if it happened in combat, he would be court-martialed. Hilbert never learned to drive as Howard taught him and a bad teacher yelled at him for not releasing the clutch properly.

65:00 A Lieutenant grabbed Hilbert and told him to drive him to headquarters. The Lieutenant said he did not need an Army permit and he did not ask him to drive but ordered him. Hilbert knew the gear shift was on the panel on the visor and he had to double shift. It was a one-lane dirt road in the woods and he looked at the panel how to shift gears and succeeded in getting the Lieutenant to his destination. Then he practiced driving by taking a jeep and riding around. His brother was 12 when he had double mastoid surgery which affected his hearing. He volunteered for the Army and was rejected and classified 4F. He went to work for an uncle in Virginia in business during the war and Hilbert went into the same business after the war. In December '44 he left by troop train going north. There was snow on the ground until their arrival at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. He realized they must have gone north to Canada and South through New York according to the signs he saw. It was wartime and trains were going in different directions. He was prepared to go overseas. It was around Christmas and he got a 24-hour pass to go into Manhattan. The general battery had 100 enlisted men and officers. Howard was the gunner for #2 and he was on #3. Ninety-eight of the 100 returned from the pass. About the two that did not return, one was Italian, Tony Faschutto the bugler and the other was Jewish, Ben Freedman.

70:00 The captain got a telegram from Faschutto and Freedman that they were too sick to travel. The next day he got a telegram that they were feeling better but still too sick to travel. The following day, they were loading the ship at New York harbor and the two arrived by taxi. Freedman's aunt worked for the New York Port Authority and knew when the ship was departing. The two (Faschutto and Freedman) were court-martialed. It was a 15-day crossing in a convoy to Marseilles. They lived below decks and slept in hammocks four

or 5 high. You had to sleep with your duffle bag in the hammock. The two slept in a bottom hammock and one of the others had to guard them. Everyone got two meals: breakfast and dinner as it took too long to feed 5,000 men three meals. There was a separate area for officers. You had to get in line for each meal. The two got marched to the food line, got served and ate and got marched back so they did not stand in line. This was their jail sentence.

75:00 Upon landing they went to a rural area where 2-men pup tents were set up. The two had their tent 10 feet from others so were considered in jail and still needed to be guarded. The day before the sentence expired, one might have bribed the guard so they went into Marseilles. The Shore Patrol arrested them in a house of ill repute. Tony had to go with the 2nd Lieutenant to build one foxhole for himself and one for the 2nd Lieutenant. Hilbert got married in '48 and went to New York for his honeymoon. They were in a nice restaurant and in the restroom he sees Freedman who says he is a Gigolo and escorts wealthy women to restaurants and theatres. Even in combat there was comic relief. They did not know that Marseilles was to be their destination. They were happy to be arriving in Southern sunny France but it was freezing. The dockworkers said it was the coldest in 100 years. The Infantry unit they supported had been shipped earlier. This was after the Battle of the Bulge and the Germans were on the defensive. Their Infantry was located in Wing, Samtak (?). It was their first combat position near Strasburg. There were casualties – killed, wounded and captured. Hilbert's first assignment was to go on maneuvers so the new officers could learn to deal with early observations. They went into gun position around midnight and shells were flying overhead.

85:00 At daybreak, they saw they were on the Miden River and the Germans were on the other side on a high hill. There was a 155 meter Howitzer and a 240 Howitzer behind them. You could tell by the sound which direction the shells were going whether toward the Germans or toward them. They were dug in so the Howitzers were below ground. They went north so the guns might be close together or far apart as may be near or close. Howard depended on the terrain. They might put camouflage over the gun area. One guy in the tent was Preston McDaniel II, a tall gangly guy who walked like he was behind a plow. He came from a small town on the Tennessee/Kentucky border where he was a lookout for revenue agents as they were moonshine producers. He would sit on a dirt road and if he saw a strange vehicle approaching, he would sound the alarm. When they were in training in Oklahoma, there was a note on the bulletin to list your foreign languages and the guy listed Spanish.

85:00 "Si, Senior" was all he knew. They had a quiet period. They were on a fire mission. There was a shell projectile. Inside the casing they had 10 powder bags attached by strings. He told Mac, "to fire seven." That means to take three out of the casing and another man takes the projectile. Then he says, "Take two more bags." Finally he says, "Charge nine." Mac is working hard and they say, "Mission canceled." Sometimes a moving

target can change the number of bags to hit just past the target. The second time may be short of the target and the third time you know how to hit the target. This is the normal procedure. Mac never caught on as he was not smart enough. There was a rail battle in late January when they crossed into Germany, the Battle of Wurzburg. They arrived in Schweinfurt as they were nearing Nuremberg. The Germans had an underground concrete bunker surrounding ball bearing factories. Ball bearing were needed for wheels. Above ground they had 8 meter anti-aircraft guns. The Germans lived in bunkers so they were next to their guns.

90:00 there was an early form of radar with large radar pieces, about 8 to 10 feet long and programmed to zero in on one aircraft or fire an individual aircraft. The US Airforce lost 60 bombers over Schweinfurt in one day due to the anti-aircraft. They saw a USP4 plane sitting there. It had crashed near the anti-aircraft gun placements. It was lightly damaged with a dead co-pilot still in the cockpit. The Retrieval Unit had not arrived. Hilbert does not recall seeing any bombers. Perhaps they were removed earlier. The Twins being Jewish did not come up. Howard's crew had a Jew so the three of them were the only Jews in the gun battery. They had Italians and Romanians; it was a mixture. He was in the Army for three years and was only in the anti-aircraft section. He was in the Army of Occupation in Austria.

95:00 They were ordered to secure Schweinfurt and move on. He knew there were atrocities but no details. He knew there were concentration camps but did not know their location or the events that occurred there. Hilbert got news from the radio and Stars & Stripes, the Army weekly Newspaper. Fox News in the movies showed military events in Europe. Their next military objective was Munich. He went on a 2 and 1/2 Army tank that had a driver and a Sergeant up front and a Corporal in back with seven crew members. He was in the back. There was a bench on each side of the truck where they sat and slept. The truck hauled the Howitzer. On April 29, 1945 they headed for Munich and were ordered to pull off to the right side of the road in a wooded area. They set up and fired a few rounds toward Munich which was 8 to 10 miles away. There was a strong odor there. The driver of the jeep said it must be a chemical factory on the other side of the road. Howard said the odor is similar to freshly killed chickens. Their mother would burn the feather of the chicken and the fat would burn and give off that odor.

100:00 Hilbert walked with Howard through the woods and saw a line of boxcars. There was a fence which they climbed over between the railroad cars. Some of the cars had been opened by the Infantry. He had a box camera with a roll of film and an extra roll so he took a few photos. Howard took photos of the inside of the boxcars. They saw dead bodies in grotesque positions dressed in assorted clothing. Later Howard found the Holocaust Museum was seeking artifacts and he sent the photos to them. They were enlarged and hung in four different places. The official photographer of the Signal Corps took similar photos. Hilbert had seen many dead German soldiers and dead horses as

when the Germans got out of fuel, they used horses for transportation. Hilbert said high school students asked him how he felt when he saw the bodies. At the time, he had no sensation as he had seen many dead bodies. They were mostly males. Later he read of the death train.

105:00 Men had been loaded in 40 to 50 boxcars. The first cars were hopper cars that wound around the gate of the SS camp next door to the prisoner camp. They had open doors. The 45th Division was there on the left. The cars were open so it was thought that American planes had strafed them or they were starving and the Germans killed them. It took 20 days for the train to arrive at Dachau and they just got one loaf of bread, raw potatoes, and a porcelain pot as a toilet and were locked in. The window was covered and it was cold as it was winter. Most of them were weak when they entered and died from malnutrition. They walked 25 yards through a metal gate to the prisoner's camp where they saw a few US soldiers walking. There were three or four dead German soldiers. All was quiet. He saw four or five men, one leaning against the wall and one standing. They did not look healthy.

110:00 They stared at each other. There were 25 men there and they had to return to their guns. After the war ended, Hilbert learned that was Dachau. He did not know they were Jews. He gave a job to Sam Lederman, a survivor from Dachau. He may have been in a sub-camp. After the twins finished college, they had a business selling housewares, pots and pans, on credit. They went home-to-home. A Jewish agency called from Jacksonville that they had a survivor who was a Master Watchmaker from Poland and he did not speak English. They decided to sell watches and the survivor could fix them. They contacted Benrus Watch Company in New York and gave tools to the survivor. The twins' father was Lithuanian and spoke Yiddish so acted as the interpreter. The Twins did not tell the survivor about their military experiences. They told jewelry stores that they have a Master Watchmaker who could fix watches. If the watch could not be fixed, he could build parts so they had this additional business.

115:00 Recently Hilbert was in Dachau and he could not find Sam's name so he was probably in a sub-camp. He married another survivor and had a daughter who Hilbert keeps in touch with. After the war, Sam and his wife were at services in Salzburg. The Germans let him live as they needed someone to repair watches and clocks. It was not unusual for the SS officers to pick up a repaired watch and put his Luger to Sam's temple and say, "If the watch loses two seconds, I will return." The wife's life was saved as she was a cook in their kitchen. Hilbert's unit went to the outskirts of Munich where there was combat but no heavy firing as the Germans were rapidly retreating. The Americans captured Munich on April 30th and the war ended May 8th. From then in, he rode in trucks but they were not firing as the Germans were retreating. Many Germans came out of the woods and threw away their rifles and raised their arms. The Americans just motioned

they should go to the rear where there were interrogators who captured them. His unit went to Keefer's Field in Austria.

120:00 After the war, it was the first time that he lived in a house. They had been outdoors since Marseilles. He slept except for the two hours night guard duty. They had slept in the snow, rain and cold. From Keefer's Field they went to a monastery in Salzburg where were given details. One detail was to stand guard duty at a nearby Army Command that became an SS prison compound. Then his unit split into two groups and each had ten prisoners and rode into the mountains above Salzburg and cut down trees for firewood. Their trucks hauled them down to give the citizens fuel for cooking and heating. They ate C and K rations. The prisoners got soup like matzo ball or kneidlach soup as it was easy to make. Another detail, he and another soldier drove to Genoa, Italy where there was a ship full of grain from the US and Australia. They unloaded the grain into hopper cars. In the middle of the train were boxcars with folding cots and C and K rations for use of the two of them to travel home, They went through the Po Valley to the Brenner Pass to Austria and the grain was used to bake bread for the civilians.

125:00 They used flour for the soup. Hilbert lived in the same building as Howard but they got different details. Howard rode in a convoy of men and 200 Army trucks transporting 2,000 Jewish survivors to the Austrian Alps to two resort villages. He rode shotgun on a truck above Salzburg and suddenly there was noise from the trucks. The former prisoners had leather shoes which made noise tapping on the metal floors. They stopped the trucks and the survivors got out. They said their Sabbath was about to begin and they could not travel. They set up a field kitchen, got blankets and cooked food and stayed all day Saturday until the sun set. They traveled to the hotel for hot food, clean clothes and baths. They were in Votter Raststein (?) where Hilbert was on a baseball team. Hilbert walked around the town and saw the survivors at a different hotel. He knew a little Yiddish and told them he was Jewish. His non-Jewish roommate said, "It is a shame that Hitler did not get them all." Hilbert told the roommate that he was offended as he was Jewish. The roommate walked away and avoided him. After 10 days, Hilbert asked him why he said it.

130:00 He said that he grew up on a farm in Nebraska and rode on a wagon into town with his father to buy clothing and provisions. The family who owned the clothing store was Jewish and his father said, "Those Jews have it so good, an easy life and make money and we are poor farmers and work hard and make little money." Then the two roommates understood each other and became friendly after the football session. The roommate was in a different part of the division and went elsewhere. The Division Chaplain Bonner was a Rabbi and when introduced to the Commander, General Harry Collins, he said he preferred them to call him Padre. If ever they heard any anti-Semitism comments, they should tell Collins. The Chaplain transported the survivors. Dachau had 32,000 prisoners and there was no place to put them. It took a month to eradicate their

typhus so they were kept at Dachau several months. The Chaplain told Collins that taking people from horrible conditions to resort hotels will be hard on them as they do not know how long they will be staying or where they will go next.

135:00 They had no option but the resort as it was an order from Washington, DC. Howard felt that the survivors held onto their faith which helped them survive though some gave up. Later he learned that the Swiss representative arrived at Dachau a few days before the Americans and warned the SS that the American Army is coming. The SS were told to either fight or surrender to save lives. The SS decided to leave and defend Munich, leaving a cadre in charge and junior SS to surrender. Hilbert's assistant General arrived with bodyguards and reporters to accept the surrender around 2:30 PM on April 29th. A few years ago he was in touch with soldiers in the tanks of the 20th Army Division and by phone learned that his tank was approaching Munich on the 29th and they were told to turn quickly around to Dachau and arrived at 4:30 PM.

140:00 Hilbert was given an Army camera to take combat photos while the tank was operating and sent them to the Holocaust Museum. He uses the photos when he speaks to schools and synagogues. He and Howard had been at Dachau early in the morning. In the prisoner camp, the Germans appointed Kapos to deal with the prisoners in the barracks. On April 29, 2015 he arrived in Munich for the opening of the new museum. A few men from the 42nd Division were honored guests as they liberated Munich from the Nazis. He was told there would be survivors from Dachau and he wanted to speak to them. On May 1st, he met a woman survivor in a wheelchair and her daughter. He asked the woman what she was doing April 29th and she replied that she was ill with typhus and did not know what was happening. She kissed him on both cheeks and said if he had come a couple of days later, she would not have made it.

145:00 Another prisoner, Jerry Conroy, who lives in Montreal corresponded with Howard by email met at Dachau and said he was not in the camp at the time. Early on April 28th, he was one of 6,000 Jewish prisoners on a forced march with SS officers and soldiers heading for the Alps above Salzburg. The SS rode in vehicles. They got close to the Austrian border when they realized the American tanks were coming close. They left the prisoners so Jerry was liberated by the American Army. On May 3rd Hilbert saw a survivor from California, Mr. Kaufman who will be in a movie on Veterans Day on the History Channel. Hilbert tried to talk to him but he did not respond although he was talkative during the hour-long movie. Hilbert spoke to another survivor who was the youngest on the death march with 16 others. Of the 16, he was the only survivor.'

150:00 He got into the camp and viewed the same scene as Hilbert about 25 yards from the box car to the main gate. A few years ago Hilbert was at the Holocaust Museum with a guide and six others on the tour. He saw the boxcar which was not like the dirty ones at Dachau and broke down when he walked through it. It reminded him of Dachau where

he had been 60 years earlier. When he got outside, he was OK. A couple of years ago he was with his brother at a World War II Roundtable in Atlanta. At the Q&A, a guest said he was a bomber pilot in US Air Force and was shot down and placed in a German POW camp. He understood how everything was quiet. When his barracks leader said the Russians were going to accept the surrender the next day, they were instructed to remain in the barracks and stay quiet. The Russian soldiers walked in and all was quiet.

155:00 The difference was when the Russians came in, they ordered the prisoners to come out and kiss them as they had an Army photographer with them.