

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,160
[QUIET CHATTER]

2
00:00:01,160 --> 00:00:02,540
OK.

3
00:00:02,540 --> 00:00:03,120
And speed.

4
00:00:03,120 --> 00:00:04,690
OK, we're rolling.

5
00:00:04,690 --> 00:00:08,460
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

6
00:00:08,460 --> 00:00:15,300
interview with Mr. Vincent
Koch on February 22, 2017,

7
00:00:15,300 --> 00:00:17,670
in Boca Raton, Florida.

8
00:00:17,670 --> 00:00:20,310
Thank you very,
very much, Mr. Koch,

9
00:00:20,310 --> 00:00:22,680
for agreeing to
meet with us today

10
00:00:22,680 --> 00:00:27,030
to share your story, to
share your experiences.

11
00:00:27,030 --> 00:00:29,580
As I mentioned
off-camera, I'm going

12
00:00:29,580 --> 00:00:33,810
to begin our interview with

the most basic questions.

13
00:00:33,810 --> 00:00:39,120
And from that we'll build
and we'll develop your story.

14
00:00:39,120 --> 00:00:41,580
So the very first
question I have is,

15
00:00:41,580 --> 00:00:43,335
what was your name at birth?

16
00:00:43,335 --> 00:00:46,470

17
00:00:46,470 --> 00:00:52,220
My name at birth was
Vincent Kucharsky.

18
00:00:52,220 --> 00:00:55,770
K-U-C-H-A-R-S-K-Y.

19
00:00:55,770 --> 00:00:56,270
OK.

20
00:00:56,270 --> 00:00:58,740
And when were you born?

21
00:00:58,740 --> 00:01:03,890
I was born May 25, 1925.

22
00:01:03,890 --> 00:01:05,580
And where were you born?

23
00:01:05,580 --> 00:01:08,090
I was born in New York City.

24
00:01:08,090 --> 00:01:10,220
Which borough.

25

00:01:10,220 --> 00:01:12,065
I was born in Manhattan.

26
00:01:12,065 --> 00:01:13,190
You were born in Manhattan?

27
00:01:13,190 --> 00:01:13,940
Yes.

28
00:01:13,940 --> 00:01:14,960
Upper?

29
00:01:14,960 --> 00:01:17,530
Upper, Lower, East, West?

30
00:01:17,530 --> 00:01:18,365
I don't know.

31
00:01:18,365 --> 00:01:20,380
It was Lebanon hospital.

32
00:01:20,380 --> 00:01:23,900
Oh, I mean more, where
did your parents live?

33
00:01:23,900 --> 00:01:24,420
Where?

34
00:01:24,420 --> 00:01:26,180
Did they live in Manhattan?

35
00:01:26,180 --> 00:01:28,310
Yes, that's where they lived.

36
00:01:28,310 --> 00:01:28,810
All right.

37
00:01:28,810 --> 00:01:30,000
Yeah.

38
00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:32,540

And is that where you grew up?

39

00:01:32,540 --> 00:01:36,060

I grew up primarily
in the Bronx.

40

00:01:36,060 --> 00:01:38,050

They moved up to that area.

41

00:01:38,050 --> 00:01:40,700

Do you still
remember the address?

42

00:01:40,700 --> 00:01:41,780

Absolutely.

43

00:01:41,780 --> 00:01:43,070

What was it?

44

00:01:43,070 --> 00:01:46,620

1957 Bronxdale Avenue.

45

00:01:46,620 --> 00:01:50,190

821 is the apartment number.

46

00:01:50,190 --> 00:01:51,470

821.

47

00:01:51,470 --> 00:01:54,540

And did you have
brothers and sisters?

48

00:01:54,540 --> 00:01:55,986

I have one brother.

49

00:01:55,986 --> 00:01:56,860

OK.

50

00:01:56,860 --> 00:01:58,330

Younger or older?

51

00:01:58,330 --> 00:01:59,540
Younger.

52
00:01:59,540 --> 00:02:00,680
And what's his name?

53
00:02:00,680 --> 00:02:01,820
Jesse.

54
00:02:01,820 --> 00:02:03,350
And when was he born?

55
00:02:03,350 --> 00:02:05,390
He was born on--

56
00:02:05,390 --> 00:02:08,135
he was born on-- he
just had a birthday.

57
00:02:08,135 --> 00:02:13,863
He was born on 4th
of January 1931.

58
00:02:13,863 --> 00:02:16,030
So there was about six years
difference between you.

59
00:02:16,030 --> 00:02:17,010
Exactly.

60
00:02:17,010 --> 00:02:17,680
OK.

61
00:02:17,680 --> 00:02:18,320
Exactly.

62
00:02:18,320 --> 00:02:19,970
What was your father's name?

63
00:02:19,970 --> 00:02:20,990
Abraham.

64
00:02:20,990 --> 00:02:22,460
Abraham Kucharsky?

65
00:02:22,460 --> 00:02:23,240
Yes.

66
00:02:23,240 --> 00:02:24,800
And your mother's?

67
00:02:24,800 --> 00:02:25,730
Rebecca.

68
00:02:25,730 --> 00:02:28,930
And her maiden name?

69
00:02:28,930 --> 00:02:31,430
G-O-L-U-B, Golub.

70
00:02:31,430 --> 00:02:33,780
Golub.

71
00:02:33,780 --> 00:02:37,010
Where-- did your parents
have brothers and sisters?

72
00:02:37,010 --> 00:02:38,990
Yes.

73
00:02:38,990 --> 00:02:41,240
My parents had
brothers and sisters.

74
00:02:41,240 --> 00:02:48,570
My father had about seven
brothers and sisters.

75
00:02:48,570 --> 00:02:52,510
And my mother had about five.

76
00:02:52,510 --> 00:02:54,690
Were they all New Yorkers?

77
00:02:54,690 --> 00:02:55,490
Yes.

78
00:02:55,490 --> 00:02:57,800
Were your parents
also born in New York?

79
00:02:57,800 --> 00:02:59,600
No, they weren't
born in New York.

80
00:02:59,600 --> 00:03:02,480
They came from Russia.

81
00:03:02,480 --> 00:03:03,200
Oh, did they?

82
00:03:03,200 --> 00:03:04,280
Yeah.

83
00:03:04,280 --> 00:03:07,490
So you're a
first-generation American.

84
00:03:07,490 --> 00:03:08,760
Probably, yeah.

85
00:03:08,760 --> 00:03:10,798
If they came from Russia,
they were immigrants.

86
00:03:10,798 --> 00:03:12,590
And you are the first
generation born here.

87
00:03:12,590 --> 00:03:19,170
Well, my father was born in
London on the way over from--

88
00:03:19,170 --> 00:03:19,670
From Russia.

89

00:03:19,670 --> 00:03:23,510
Coming from Russia to America.

90

00:03:23,510 --> 00:03:26,240
Do you know what part of
Russia they were from,

91

00:03:26,240 --> 00:03:28,130
your father was from?

92

00:03:28,130 --> 00:03:29,690
Not exactly.

93

00:03:29,690 --> 00:03:32,540
What about your mother?

94

00:03:32,540 --> 00:03:34,250
Where was my mother from?

95

00:03:34,250 --> 00:03:40,320
She was from Minsk.

96

00:03:40,320 --> 00:03:42,030
I've been to Minsk.

97

00:03:42,030 --> 00:03:42,530
Have you?

98

00:03:42,530 --> 00:03:43,913
I have, yes.

99

00:03:43,913 --> 00:03:44,580
OK, that's good.

100

00:03:44,580 --> 00:03:47,240
Minsk is from today's Belarus.

101

00:03:47,240 --> 00:03:49,360
It's the capital of Belarus.

102
00:03:49,360 --> 00:03:49,910
OK.

103
00:03:49,910 --> 00:03:54,480
And it was heavily, heavily
bombed during the war.

104
00:03:54,480 --> 00:03:54,980
OK.

105
00:03:54,980 --> 00:03:57,110
It was one of the
toughest places to be.

106
00:03:57,110 --> 00:04:00,740

107
00:04:00,740 --> 00:04:03,890
So do you remember, did
your parents ever tell you

108
00:04:03,890 --> 00:04:05,540
what years they came over?

109
00:04:05,540 --> 00:04:08,330

110
00:04:08,330 --> 00:04:11,123
I wouldn't know that,
exactly what year.

111
00:04:11,123 --> 00:04:11,850
OK.

112
00:04:11,850 --> 00:04:12,810
I wouldn't know.

113
00:04:12,810 --> 00:04:16,610
Did they know each other before,
or did they meet in New York?

114

00:04:16,610 --> 00:04:19,016
They met in New York.

115
00:04:19,016 --> 00:04:19,820
OK.

116
00:04:19,820 --> 00:04:24,800
And do you know how they met,
how they met and married?

117
00:04:24,800 --> 00:04:25,850
What was the story there?

118
00:04:25,850 --> 00:04:31,070
Well, they happened to move
into a likable neighborhood,

119
00:04:31,070 --> 00:04:32,330
and that's how they met.

120
00:04:32,330 --> 00:04:34,340
So they were neighbors,
or neighbor people?

121
00:04:34,340 --> 00:04:35,650
Neighbors, exactly.

122
00:04:35,650 --> 00:04:36,450
OK.

123
00:04:36,450 --> 00:04:37,040
Exactly.

124
00:04:37,040 --> 00:04:40,340
And was that in
the Bronx as well?

125
00:04:40,340 --> 00:04:43,430
Well, it started in Manhattan.

126
00:04:43,430 --> 00:04:46,820
That's where they moved

when they came to America.

127
00:04:46,820 --> 00:04:48,380
To America.

128
00:04:48,380 --> 00:04:49,490
That's where they came.

129
00:04:49,490 --> 00:04:51,500
They came to Manhattan.

130
00:04:51,500 --> 00:04:53,010
They had relatives there.

131
00:04:53,010 --> 00:04:56,180
My grandparents lived
in New York, too.

132
00:04:56,180 --> 00:04:57,830
Oh, so your
grandparents had already

133
00:04:57,830 --> 00:04:59,270
come to the United States.

134
00:04:59,270 --> 00:05:01,010
Yes, a little before.

135
00:05:01,010 --> 00:05:04,700
Very similar, but
a little before.

136
00:05:04,700 --> 00:05:08,650
And do you know why
the family left Russia?

137
00:05:08,650 --> 00:05:09,260
No.

138
00:05:09,260 --> 00:05:10,540
No one ever spoke?

139

00:05:10,540 --> 00:05:12,540

They just said we left.

140

00:05:12,540 --> 00:05:13,670

OK.

141

00:05:13,670 --> 00:05:14,420

I don't know.

142

00:05:14,420 --> 00:05:19,700

I don't remember hearing
why they left Russia.

143

00:05:19,700 --> 00:05:25,640

I imagine that it had a lot to
do with the war at that time.

144

00:05:25,640 --> 00:05:27,120

That's true.

145

00:05:27,120 --> 00:05:30,740

I've heard a lot of people
say that in the early part

146

00:05:30,740 --> 00:05:34,790

of the 20th century, in
the late part of the 19th,

147

00:05:34,790 --> 00:05:38,100

people wanted to avoid
serving in that Czar's army.

148

00:05:38,100 --> 00:05:39,100

Mm-hmm.

149

00:05:39,100 --> 00:05:41,720

You know, it was the draft.

150

00:05:41,720 --> 00:05:45,680

It was of course the war
itself when it happened.

151

00:05:45,680 --> 00:05:51,860
So about how long do you think
they were in the United States

152

00:05:51,860 --> 00:05:52,805
before you were born?

153

00:05:52,805 --> 00:05:57,240

154

00:05:57,240 --> 00:05:58,616
I really don't know.

155

00:05:58,616 --> 00:05:59,116
OK.

156

00:05:59,116 --> 00:06:03,020
Do you know the
year they married?

157

00:06:03,020 --> 00:06:04,610
No.

158

00:06:04,610 --> 00:06:06,320
I don't know the
year they married.

159

00:06:06,320 --> 00:06:08,480
That's OK.

160

00:06:08,480 --> 00:06:12,350
What language did
you speak at home?

161

00:06:12,350 --> 00:06:13,400
English.

162

00:06:13,400 --> 00:06:13,980
English?

163

00:06:13,980 --> 00:06:14,480

English.

164
00:06:14,480 --> 00:06:15,980
So they learned English?

165
00:06:15,980 --> 00:06:17,030
Yeah.

166
00:06:17,030 --> 00:06:18,330
That's unusual.

167
00:06:18,330 --> 00:06:19,730
Yes, I know that.

168
00:06:19,730 --> 00:06:20,900
That's very unusual.

169
00:06:20,900 --> 00:06:23,120
Yeah.

170
00:06:23,120 --> 00:06:24,690
We spoke English.

171
00:06:24,690 --> 00:06:25,310
OK.

172
00:06:25,310 --> 00:06:28,640
Did they ever speak
Yiddish amongst themselves?

173
00:06:28,640 --> 00:06:30,810
My grandparents did.

174
00:06:30,810 --> 00:06:32,120
OK.

175
00:06:32,120 --> 00:06:36,660
But my parents at home
always spoke English.

176
00:06:36,660 --> 00:06:37,850

And what about Russian?

177
00:06:37,850 --> 00:06:39,230
Did anybody know Russian?

178
00:06:39,230 --> 00:06:41,580
Yes.

179
00:06:41,580 --> 00:06:44,850
I don't know what percentage
they were comfortable with,

180
00:06:44,850 --> 00:06:45,950
but they did speak.

181
00:06:45,950 --> 00:06:47,160
My mother I know did.

182
00:06:47,160 --> 00:06:48,170
Not my father.

183
00:06:48,170 --> 00:06:48,890
OK.

184
00:06:48,890 --> 00:06:51,410
My mother's spoke some Russian.

185
00:06:51,410 --> 00:06:53,450
OK.

186
00:06:53,450 --> 00:06:57,020
Did they have family
still left behind?

187
00:06:57,020 --> 00:06:58,600
Yes.

188
00:06:58,600 --> 00:07:00,220
Who would that have been?

189
00:07:00,220 --> 00:07:01,880

Who would that have been?

190

00:07:01,880 --> 00:07:04,450

I really don't know
what percentage of them?

191

00:07:04,450 --> 00:07:06,660

There was probably
some brothers.

192

00:07:06,660 --> 00:07:10,565

And they all didn't come
over at the same time.

193

00:07:10,565 --> 00:07:12,440

So would have this been
on your grandparents'

194

00:07:12,440 --> 00:07:14,600

generation or your
parents' generation,

195

00:07:14,600 --> 00:07:17,270

who was staying behind?

196

00:07:17,270 --> 00:07:23,190

Staying behind, it was
predominantly on my--

197

00:07:23,190 --> 00:07:24,260

not my parents.

198

00:07:24,260 --> 00:07:28,010

My parents came over with
some of the relatives.

199

00:07:28,010 --> 00:07:30,960

I think the grandfather
came over first.

200

00:07:30,960 --> 00:07:31,820

OK.

201

00:07:31,820 --> 00:07:37,740
And one of the oldest daughter,
I remember, came over.

202

00:07:37,740 --> 00:07:40,170
I mean, this wasn't
in my time, so I--

203

00:07:40,170 --> 00:07:40,690
I know.

204

00:07:40,690 --> 00:07:44,090
And I know sometimes
families tell stories,

205

00:07:44,090 --> 00:07:46,080
and sometimes they
don't talk much.

206

00:07:46,080 --> 00:07:46,910
Yes.

207

00:07:46,910 --> 00:07:48,470
What was yours like?

208

00:07:48,470 --> 00:07:50,030
Your parents?

209

00:07:50,030 --> 00:07:51,390
What was mine then?

210

00:07:51,390 --> 00:07:54,220
They didn't talk much at all.

211

00:07:54,220 --> 00:07:57,035
You'd have to push
them to get stories.

212

00:07:57,035 --> 00:08:00,170

213

00:08:00,170 --> 00:08:06,830
What did their parents
do to make a living?

214
00:08:06,830 --> 00:08:08,670
To make a living?

215
00:08:08,670 --> 00:08:13,790
My father was a
Painter-decorator

216
00:08:13,790 --> 00:08:14,790
OK.

217
00:08:14,790 --> 00:08:17,120
And my mother was a housewife.

218
00:08:17,120 --> 00:08:18,590
OK.

219
00:08:18,590 --> 00:08:24,410
How did he come to be a
painter and a decorator?

220
00:08:24,410 --> 00:08:31,350
I think one of the older
brothers were in that.

221
00:08:31,350 --> 00:08:34,130
And that's where
it started from.

222
00:08:34,130 --> 00:08:36,450
Did they have
their own business?

223
00:08:36,450 --> 00:08:36,950
No.

224
00:08:36,950 --> 00:08:38,325
No, they worked
for other people.

225

00:08:38,325 --> 00:08:40,226

Worked for other people, yes.

226

00:08:40,226 --> 00:08:41,510

OK.

227

00:08:41,510 --> 00:08:43,280

And your mom took care
of the house, then?

228

00:08:43,280 --> 00:08:43,780

Yes.

229

00:08:43,780 --> 00:08:46,310

She took care of you and your
brother and the household.

230

00:08:46,310 --> 00:08:47,050

Yes.

231

00:08:47,050 --> 00:08:47,810

OK.

232

00:08:47,810 --> 00:08:49,470

And the children.

233

00:08:49,470 --> 00:08:50,702

And the children.

234

00:08:50,702 --> 00:08:52,250

Yes.

235

00:08:52,250 --> 00:08:56,930

A not inconsequential
thing, you know?

236

00:08:56,930 --> 00:08:58,470

Not at all.

237

00:08:58,470 --> 00:08:58,970

Yeah.

238
00:08:58,970 --> 00:09:02,810
Which parent was the one who
was more involved with you

239
00:09:02,810 --> 00:09:06,080
when you were younger?

240
00:09:06,080 --> 00:09:07,850
Which parent?

241
00:09:07,850 --> 00:09:11,832
Well, I suppose I saw more
of my mother than my father.

242
00:09:11,832 --> 00:09:13,160
OK.

243
00:09:13,160 --> 00:09:14,030
But--

244
00:09:14,030 --> 00:09:16,620
Were you closer to
one or the other?

245
00:09:16,620 --> 00:09:19,110
No, both about the same.

246
00:09:19,110 --> 00:09:23,090
We had a very warm early
life with the family.

247
00:09:23,090 --> 00:09:25,070
We had a very
close relationship.

248
00:09:25,070 --> 00:09:28,550

249
00:09:28,550 --> 00:09:31,260
Was yours a religious family?

250

00:09:31,260 --> 00:09:34,370

The grandparent end of it was.

251

00:09:34,370 --> 00:09:36,065

My grandfather was.

252

00:09:36,065 --> 00:09:37,940

And this would have been
your father's father

253

00:09:37,940 --> 00:09:38,720

or your mother's?

254

00:09:38,720 --> 00:09:40,340

My mother's father.

255

00:09:40,340 --> 00:09:42,620

And when you talked about
your grandfather before,

256

00:09:42,620 --> 00:09:45,650

were you referring to
your mother's father

257

00:09:45,650 --> 00:09:47,210

or to both sets?

258

00:09:47,210 --> 00:09:51,890

I was much closer to my
mother's, because we lived--

259

00:09:51,890 --> 00:09:56,900

in those days, you would
live closer to the--

260

00:09:56,900 --> 00:10:00,000

people didn't roam
around that much.

261

00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:00,680

Yeah.

262

00:10:00,680 --> 00:10:06,410

And we lived near
our grandparents.

263

00:10:06,410 --> 00:10:07,580

My brother as well.

264

00:10:07,580 --> 00:10:10,340

265

00:10:10,340 --> 00:10:13,280

And your father's
parents, were they

266

00:10:13,280 --> 00:10:16,040

also in the United
States or not?

267

00:10:16,040 --> 00:10:22,040

Yeah, my father's
parents, they originally

268

00:10:22,040 --> 00:10:24,334

ended up in New York.

269

00:10:24,334 --> 00:10:25,100

OK.

270

00:10:25,100 --> 00:10:31,490

And then after that, they
all migrated to California.

271

00:10:31,490 --> 00:10:34,280

Oh, so it's part of the family
was then on the West Coast?

272

00:10:34,280 --> 00:10:35,780

Yes, yes.

273

00:10:35,780 --> 00:10:38,770

My father's family
was predominantly

274
00:10:38,770 --> 00:10:40,510
on the West Coast, California.

275
00:10:40,510 --> 00:10:43,630

276
00:10:43,630 --> 00:10:46,540
Was your neighborhood
predominantly Jewish,

277
00:10:46,540 --> 00:10:47,800
or was it mixed?

278
00:10:47,800 --> 00:10:48,748
Mixed.

279
00:10:48,748 --> 00:10:49,540
Who else was there?

280
00:10:49,540 --> 00:10:52,101
Irish, Italian, and Jewish.

281
00:10:52,101 --> 00:10:54,260
OK.

282
00:10:54,260 --> 00:10:58,990
And as you were growing
up, did that make

283
00:10:58,990 --> 00:11:01,090
a difference when you
went to school, when

284
00:11:01,090 --> 00:11:03,190
you played with other kids?

285
00:11:03,190 --> 00:11:04,270
How did that--

286
00:11:04,270 --> 00:11:07,660

Did that make a
difference in what way?

287
00:11:07,660 --> 00:11:12,280
Well, I left it open ended, to
find out if it's in some ways,

288
00:11:12,280 --> 00:11:14,740
you know, kids would
razz each other,

289
00:11:14,740 --> 00:11:19,960
or you didn't hang around
with somebody who wasn't--

290
00:11:19,960 --> 00:11:21,770
Oh, yeah.

291
00:11:21,770 --> 00:11:26,120
We were confronted with
a lot of anti-Semitism

292
00:11:26,120 --> 00:11:30,210
in the neighborhoods that
we were involved with.

293
00:11:30,210 --> 00:11:34,990
That was wasn't a very
strange situation.

294
00:11:34,990 --> 00:11:40,960
But in most of these places,
we found a very warm niche

295
00:11:40,960 --> 00:11:45,610
eventually, because we
didn't move around a lot.

296
00:11:45,610 --> 00:11:48,790
Once we moved into
a area, we usually

297
00:11:48,790 --> 00:11:51,070

spent years in that area.

298
00:11:51,070 --> 00:11:51,570
OK.

299
00:11:51,570 --> 00:11:53,920
So we got to know everybody.

300
00:11:53,920 --> 00:11:58,740
And when there was an
experience of anti-Semitism,

301
00:11:58,740 --> 00:12:04,750
was it on the level of children,
or did it go beyond that?

302
00:12:04,750 --> 00:12:06,028
Both.

303
00:12:06,028 --> 00:12:07,010
Both, then?

304
00:12:07,010 --> 00:12:07,510
Yeah.

305
00:12:07,510 --> 00:12:08,150
OK.

306
00:12:08,150 --> 00:12:09,400
Can you give me some examples?

307
00:12:09,400 --> 00:12:12,010

308
00:12:12,010 --> 00:12:14,720
Can I give you some examples?

309
00:12:14,720 --> 00:12:21,010
Well, I mean, certainly
at the parents level

310

00:12:21,010 --> 00:12:26,980
and the grandparents
level, it dwindled down

311
00:12:26,980 --> 00:12:30,080
to the younger element.

312
00:12:30,080 --> 00:12:34,660
But it was mostly in the older--

313
00:12:34,660 --> 00:12:38,260
grandparents,
grandfather, grandmother.

314
00:12:38,260 --> 00:12:42,240
Maybe even some of
the older children.

315
00:12:42,240 --> 00:12:44,672
I wouldn't be
familiar with that.

316
00:12:44,672 --> 00:12:45,172
OK.

317
00:12:45,172 --> 00:12:49,420

318
00:12:49,420 --> 00:12:51,940
What was your school life like?

319
00:12:51,940 --> 00:12:56,840
What memories do you have of
going to school in the Bronx?

320
00:12:56,840 --> 00:12:59,710
What memory?

321
00:12:59,710 --> 00:13:00,640
Well, good memories.

322
00:13:00,640 --> 00:13:01,140

Yeah?

323

00:13:01,140 --> 00:13:03,040

Did you like going to school?

324

00:13:03,040 --> 00:13:05,024

Yeah, I liked it very much.

325

00:13:05,024 --> 00:13:05,524

Yeah.

326

00:13:05,524 --> 00:13:06,470

OK.

327

00:13:06,470 --> 00:13:08,500

I liked it.

328

00:13:08,500 --> 00:13:12,150

I wasn't prepared to answer questions in that category.

329

00:13:12,150 --> 00:13:12,910

I know.

330

00:13:12,910 --> 00:13:17,050

I was prepared to answer questions in my--

331

00:13:17,050 --> 00:13:17,610

I understand.

332

00:13:17,610 --> 00:13:19,180

--my category.

333

00:13:19,180 --> 00:13:20,290

I understand.

334

00:13:20,290 --> 00:13:22,450

What I'm trying to do with this is

335

00:13:22,450 --> 00:13:26,230
paint a picture of the
world that formed you

336
00:13:26,230 --> 00:13:28,917
before you enter World War II.

337
00:13:28,917 --> 00:13:31,000
That's what the purpose
of all these questions is.

338
00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:33,520
Well, when I start to
tell you about that,

339
00:13:33,520 --> 00:13:35,810
that'll cover that
pretty thoroughly.

340
00:13:35,810 --> 00:13:39,250
Pretty thoroughly, yeah.

341
00:13:39,250 --> 00:13:46,700
Did people in your neighborhood
talk much about politics?

342
00:13:46,700 --> 00:13:47,860
No.

343
00:13:47,860 --> 00:13:48,360
OK.

344
00:13:48,360 --> 00:13:49,390
No.

345
00:13:49,390 --> 00:13:51,370
Did you have a radio at home?

346
00:13:51,370 --> 00:13:52,554
Sure.

347
00:13:52,554 --> 00:13:53,410

Mm-hmm.

348
00:13:53,410 --> 00:13:59,740
And was that the
main source of news?

349
00:13:59,740 --> 00:14:01,260
And newspapers.

350
00:14:01,260 --> 00:14:03,580
OK, which newspapers?

351
00:14:03,580 --> 00:14:04,632
Which newspaper?

352
00:14:04,632 --> 00:14:07,750

353
00:14:07,750 --> 00:14:11,160
The New York Times
and The Daily News.

354
00:14:11,160 --> 00:14:12,660
Those two.

355
00:14:12,660 --> 00:14:14,790
Any Jewish newspapers?

356
00:14:14,790 --> 00:14:15,290
No.

357
00:14:15,290 --> 00:14:15,790
No Forverts?

358
00:14:15,790 --> 00:14:17,580
My grandparents, yeah.

359
00:14:17,580 --> 00:14:18,370
OK.

360
00:14:18,370 --> 00:14:21,010

But we didn't.

361
00:14:21,010 --> 00:14:22,720
Your family at home,
they didn't talk

362
00:14:22,720 --> 00:14:25,090
much about politics or
about what was going on

363
00:14:25,090 --> 00:14:26,770
in the wider world?

364
00:14:26,770 --> 00:14:27,820
Not really.

365
00:14:27,820 --> 00:14:30,070
Not to any great extent, no.

366
00:14:30,070 --> 00:14:32,740
OK.

367
00:14:32,740 --> 00:14:38,770
When Hitler came to power
in Germany, that was in '33,

368
00:14:38,770 --> 00:14:40,630
and you would have
been eight years old.

369
00:14:40,630 --> 00:14:42,760
OK.

370
00:14:42,760 --> 00:14:45,820
Was there any talk
about what was going on

371
00:14:45,820 --> 00:14:47,692
and who was this
Hitler over there?

372
00:14:47,692 --> 00:14:48,900

You ever remember about that?

373

00:14:48,900 --> 00:14:49,400

Oh, yes.

374

00:14:49,400 --> 00:14:50,200

Sure.

375

00:14:50,200 --> 00:14:56,680

I mean, listen, '33, I

was active already in '33.

376

00:14:56,680 --> 00:14:58,090

What do you mean by active?

377

00:14:58,090 --> 00:15:01,420

Well, I mean, I

was very much aware

378

00:15:01,420 --> 00:15:05,416

of what was happening in

Germany and stuff like that.

379

00:15:05,416 --> 00:15:06,820

OK.

380

00:15:06,820 --> 00:15:08,170

As an eight-year-old boy?

381

00:15:08,170 --> 00:15:09,000

Yeah.

382

00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:09,500

OK.

383

00:15:09,500 --> 00:15:10,000

Sure.

384

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:13,090

385

00:15:13,090 --> 00:15:16,360
Did you belong to anything
like clubs, or Scouts,

386
00:15:16,360 --> 00:15:19,480
or youth organizations,
or anything like that?

387
00:15:19,480 --> 00:15:20,320
No.

388
00:15:20,320 --> 00:15:20,860
No?

389
00:15:20,860 --> 00:15:22,990
No, I did not.

390
00:15:22,990 --> 00:15:26,350
How did the Depression
affect your family?

391
00:15:26,350 --> 00:15:27,610
Very much.

392
00:15:27,610 --> 00:15:28,196
In what way?

393
00:15:28,196 --> 00:15:29,500
Tell me, please.

394
00:15:29,500 --> 00:15:30,500
In what way?

395
00:15:30,500 --> 00:15:35,320
I mean, it was tough to
make a living at that time.

396
00:15:35,320 --> 00:15:43,090
My father had a tough,
tough job of working.

397
00:15:43,090 --> 00:15:46,390

In other words, he wasn't
in his own business.

398
00:15:46,390 --> 00:15:52,180
And I remember as a child
that that was always a big--

399
00:15:52,180 --> 00:15:54,310
I didn't get involved with it.

400
00:15:54,310 --> 00:15:58,020
I was too young, but I certainly
know how it affected my mother

401
00:15:58,020 --> 00:15:59,630
and father.

402
00:15:59,630 --> 00:16:00,130
OK.

403
00:16:00,130 --> 00:16:04,390
So the jobs, they
weren't regular.

404
00:16:04,390 --> 00:16:05,950
Not at all.

405
00:16:05,950 --> 00:16:07,870
Not at all.

406
00:16:07,870 --> 00:16:11,310
This is actually
in the Depression.

407
00:16:11,310 --> 00:16:15,340
Yes, '33 was the
Depression years.

408
00:16:15,340 --> 00:16:21,580
And they were tough, and they
affected us pretty much then.

409

00:16:21,580 --> 00:16:24,520
Do you remember times
when it was not so

410
00:16:24,520 --> 00:16:27,160
easy to be able to afford food?

411
00:16:27,160 --> 00:16:28,510
Not to that extent.

412
00:16:28,510 --> 00:16:31,190
We always were able--

413
00:16:31,190 --> 00:16:35,470
my mother, that
was very-- her kids

414
00:16:35,470 --> 00:16:39,310
were very, very
important, as far as food.

415
00:16:39,310 --> 00:16:46,000
And she was a terrific provider,
and we saw more of my mother

416
00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:48,370
than we did my father.

417
00:16:48,370 --> 00:16:52,240
But my father was the one
that we loved very much.

418
00:16:52,240 --> 00:16:54,610
He never yelled at us.

419
00:16:54,610 --> 00:16:59,110
So she was the one who
was the disciplinarian.

420
00:16:59,110 --> 00:17:01,610
She was the disciplinarian, yes.

421

00:17:01,610 --> 00:17:02,110
OK.

422
00:17:02,110 --> 00:17:03,640
She was.

423
00:17:03,640 --> 00:17:07,819
But we were very good Kids we
didn't need any discipline.

424
00:17:07,819 --> 00:17:08,720
Yeah, no.

425
00:17:08,720 --> 00:17:12,510
You know, usually these
tasks are somehow or other,

426
00:17:12,510 --> 00:17:15,786
it's one parent who ends up
having one role and another

427
00:17:15,786 --> 00:17:16,619
having another role.

428
00:17:16,619 --> 00:17:17,800
Exactly.

429
00:17:17,800 --> 00:17:20,680
So tell me a little bit
about their personalities,

430
00:17:20,680 --> 00:17:24,160
your mother and your father.

431
00:17:24,160 --> 00:17:26,370
Well, with that,
I don't know where

432
00:17:26,370 --> 00:17:28,630
to begin with that, though.

433
00:17:28,630 --> 00:17:32,660

My father was a
quiet, quiet guy.

434
00:17:32,660 --> 00:17:35,640
In fact, to this day,
I mean, he passed away

435
00:17:35,640 --> 00:17:37,610
he was 47 years old.

436
00:17:37,610 --> 00:17:38,560
He was young.

437
00:17:38,560 --> 00:17:41,050
Very young, very young.

438
00:17:41,050 --> 00:17:46,480
But we have terrific memories,
both my brother and myself.

439
00:17:46,480 --> 00:17:48,170
My father was--

440
00:17:48,170 --> 00:17:49,950
Was he a gentle person?

441
00:17:49,950 --> 00:17:52,320
Yes.

442
00:17:52,320 --> 00:17:57,850
But when my mother wanted
him to be non-gentle,

443
00:17:57,850 --> 00:18:00,300
I remember those issues, too.

444
00:18:00,300 --> 00:18:00,880
Oh, really?

445
00:18:00,880 --> 00:18:02,290
Yeah.

446

00:18:02,290 --> 00:18:06,330

But he was a great
guy, a great guy.

447

00:18:06,330 --> 00:18:11,760

What are some of the values you
think that you got from him?

448

00:18:11,760 --> 00:18:12,920

A lot.

449

00:18:12,920 --> 00:18:13,530

OK.

450

00:18:13,530 --> 00:18:16,080

Very quiet man.

451

00:18:16,080 --> 00:18:18,600

Everybody loved him.

452

00:18:18,600 --> 00:18:22,710

He was the kind of guy
that he made his mark

453

00:18:22,710 --> 00:18:24,360

without being loud.

454

00:18:24,360 --> 00:18:28,530

You know, he was a
terrific, terrific guy.

455

00:18:28,530 --> 00:18:33,060

In fact, one of the big
things that we remember,

456

00:18:33,060 --> 00:18:37,638

the neighborhood that we grew
up in was predominantly Italian.

457

00:18:37,638 --> 00:18:39,430

OK.

458

00:18:39,430 --> 00:18:43,870

And it so happens
that when we first

459

00:18:43,870 --> 00:18:47,440

got into that neighborhood,
we weren't accepted

460

00:18:47,440 --> 00:18:49,450

in that neighborhood,
because we were

461

00:18:49,450 --> 00:18:53,980

one of the few
Jewish families that

462

00:18:53,980 --> 00:18:56,540

grew up in that neighborhood.

463

00:18:56,540 --> 00:19:01,900

But he was very
instrumental, my father,

464

00:19:01,900 --> 00:19:06,460

in making certain that
he was well accepted

465

00:19:06,460 --> 00:19:09,100

and his family
was well accepted.

466

00:19:09,100 --> 00:19:10,450

That's quite an achievement.

467

00:19:10,450 --> 00:19:15,730

Yes, I remember that they
had a club there-- see,

468

00:19:15,730 --> 00:19:18,550

certain things stick
with you forever--

469

00:19:18,550 --> 00:19:25,570
where the people used to play
cards in this particular club.

470
00:19:25,570 --> 00:19:31,910
And they approached my father
one day to join the club.

471
00:19:31,910 --> 00:19:33,560
They wanted to have
him in the club,

472
00:19:33,560 --> 00:19:35,670
and we thought that
was very significant.

473
00:19:35,670 --> 00:19:38,780
That was the first
Jewish guy that they ever

474
00:19:38,780 --> 00:19:40,790
asked to join the club.

475
00:19:40,790 --> 00:19:42,230
That's the kind of guy he was.

476
00:19:42,230 --> 00:19:45,770
He was magnetic as far
as people loved him.

477
00:19:45,770 --> 00:19:46,940
That's wonderful.

478
00:19:46,940 --> 00:19:47,570
Yeah.

479
00:19:47,570 --> 00:19:48,560
That's wonderful.

480
00:19:48,560 --> 00:19:49,940
So we remember that.

481

00:19:49,940 --> 00:19:53,180
Even at my age, I remember
those little incidents

482
00:19:53,180 --> 00:19:55,810
that go way, way back.

483
00:19:55,810 --> 00:19:58,730
There are the sorts of
things that do shape you.

484
00:19:58,730 --> 00:19:59,840
They impress you.

485
00:19:59,840 --> 00:20:00,810
Very much.

486
00:20:00,810 --> 00:20:01,400
You know?

487
00:20:01,400 --> 00:20:02,790
My brother, too.

488
00:20:02,790 --> 00:20:03,290
OK.

489
00:20:03,290 --> 00:20:08,330
I mean, the two of us talk
about those situations

490
00:20:08,330 --> 00:20:12,050
that stick with you
so vividly that we

491
00:20:12,050 --> 00:20:14,490
remembered every happy thing.

492
00:20:14,490 --> 00:20:17,560
What are some of the things
that were important to him,

493
00:20:17,560 --> 00:20:18,300

to your father?

494

00:20:18,300 --> 00:20:19,758

What are some of
the things that he

495

00:20:19,758 --> 00:20:23,710

thought was important to
how you lived your life?

496

00:20:23,710 --> 00:20:28,869

497

00:20:28,869 --> 00:20:31,620

Well, I don't how
to put it in words,

498

00:20:31,620 --> 00:20:40,160

but he had a
magnetic personality.

499

00:20:40,160 --> 00:20:43,320

They liked him very, very much.

500

00:20:43,320 --> 00:20:47,330

And what we saw
affected us, too.

501

00:20:47,330 --> 00:20:48,230

Of course.

502

00:20:48,230 --> 00:20:49,540

Very much so.

503

00:20:49,540 --> 00:20:52,530

Of course.

504

00:20:52,530 --> 00:20:55,370

And that helped the
whole situation.

505

00:20:55,370 --> 00:20:57,380

We got to like those people.

506

00:20:57,380 --> 00:21:00,380

We melded with them very well.

507

00:21:00,380 --> 00:21:03,470

And we lived there
for a long time,

508

00:21:03,470 --> 00:21:08,480

and we became one of them.

509

00:21:08,480 --> 00:21:11,437

And this was basically
an Italian neighbor,

510

00:21:11,437 --> 00:21:12,020

you're saying.

511

00:21:12,020 --> 00:21:14,220

Predominantly.

512

00:21:14,220 --> 00:21:17,450

I could count the Jewish
families on one hand.

513

00:21:17,450 --> 00:21:19,530

Got it, got it.

514

00:21:19,530 --> 00:21:22,340

But predominantly.

515

00:21:22,340 --> 00:21:24,770

And some of them were just--

516

00:21:24,770 --> 00:21:27,130

not all of them were the same.

517

00:21:27,130 --> 00:21:28,070

Sure.

518

00:21:28,070 --> 00:21:32,180
But some of them were terrific.

519
00:21:32,180 --> 00:21:36,200
And that was all due to
my father, his personality

520
00:21:36,200 --> 00:21:36,870
and stuff.

521
00:21:36,870 --> 00:21:39,400
So let's talk about your
mother a little bit.

522
00:21:39,400 --> 00:21:40,906
Oh!

523
00:21:40,906 --> 00:21:43,100
[LAUGHTER]

524
00:21:43,100 --> 00:21:45,810
She was the disciplinarian.

525
00:21:45,810 --> 00:21:47,800
What are the other--

526
00:21:47,800 --> 00:21:50,570
I mean, aside from
that, how would you

527
00:21:50,570 --> 00:21:52,190
describe her personality?

528
00:21:52,190 --> 00:21:55,050

529
00:21:55,050 --> 00:21:58,230
How would I describe
her personality?

530
00:21:58,230 --> 00:22:02,200
Well, she was a housewife, and--

531
00:22:02,200 --> 00:22:03,490
Was she more outgoing?

532
00:22:03,490 --> 00:22:06,300
Was she more of an extrovert?

533
00:22:06,300 --> 00:22:10,530
Did she have certain hobbies
and interests and things?

534
00:22:10,530 --> 00:22:14,150
No, she was
predominantly a homebody.

535
00:22:14,150 --> 00:22:17,040

536
00:22:17,040 --> 00:22:20,150
But she was--

537
00:22:20,150 --> 00:22:23,190
I don't know how else
to describe that?

538
00:22:23,190 --> 00:22:25,080
What about your grandparents?

539
00:22:25,080 --> 00:22:26,760
Did you see much of them?

540
00:22:26,760 --> 00:22:28,650
We lived in the same building.

541
00:22:28,650 --> 00:22:29,160
Oh my God.

542
00:22:29,160 --> 00:22:29,680
So you did.

543
00:22:29,680 --> 00:22:30,180

You did.

544

00:22:30,180 --> 00:22:31,680

I saw a lot of them.

545

00:22:31,680 --> 00:22:32,310

OK.

546

00:22:32,310 --> 00:22:33,540

A lot.

547

00:22:33,540 --> 00:22:35,760

And I had a very
strong relationship

548

00:22:35,760 --> 00:22:38,520

with my grandfather.

549

00:22:38,520 --> 00:22:39,540

Tell me about it.

550

00:22:39,540 --> 00:22:41,620

I remember him very well.

551

00:22:41,620 --> 00:22:45,150

He was real wonderful man.

552

00:22:45,150 --> 00:22:49,278

And he used to take me
to school every day.

553

00:22:49,278 --> 00:22:51,030

Did he?

554

00:22:51,030 --> 00:22:53,340

I remember-- isn't it
remarkable how you can remember

555

00:22:53,340 --> 00:22:55,150

little things like that?

556

00:22:55,150 --> 00:22:55,650
Yeah.

557
00:22:55,650 --> 00:22:57,660
He took me to school every day.

558
00:22:57,660 --> 00:23:02,400
He wanted to make certain
that I didn't cross the street

559
00:23:02,400 --> 00:23:04,230
and had the cars coming.

560
00:23:04,230 --> 00:23:06,120
He wanted to keep you safe.

561
00:23:06,120 --> 00:23:08,130
He wanted to keep me safe.

562
00:23:08,130 --> 00:23:11,520
My grandmother wasn't the same.

563
00:23:11,520 --> 00:23:12,490
She was different.

564
00:23:12,490 --> 00:23:16,060
She didn't care if I
zigzagged through the traffic.

565
00:23:16,060 --> 00:23:16,560
Go.

566
00:23:16,560 --> 00:23:18,480
[LAUGHTER]

567
00:23:18,480 --> 00:23:20,850
Now, did they ever tell stories?

568
00:23:20,850 --> 00:23:23,190
I mean, grandparents
usually have more time.

569

00:23:23,190 --> 00:23:23,690

No?

570

00:23:23,690 --> 00:23:25,530

No, no.

571

00:23:25,530 --> 00:23:26,370

OK.

572

00:23:26,370 --> 00:23:29,490

Either they didn't
talk stories, or I

573

00:23:29,490 --> 00:23:31,470

didn't listen to the stories.

574

00:23:31,470 --> 00:23:32,430

One of the two.

575

00:23:32,430 --> 00:23:38,850

But my grandfather, he was
a special, special guy.

576

00:23:38,850 --> 00:23:41,850

Really special warmth,
from a warmth standpoint.

577

00:23:41,850 --> 00:23:44,940

578

00:23:44,940 --> 00:23:49,020

So you got that from both your
father and your grandfather.

579

00:23:49,020 --> 00:23:50,080

Yes.

580

00:23:50,080 --> 00:23:50,580

OK.

581

00:23:50,580 --> 00:23:51,080

Yes.

582
00:23:51,080 --> 00:23:54,000

583
00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:56,310
And let's go more
towards school.

584
00:23:56,310 --> 00:23:58,290
When did you finish
grade school?

585
00:23:58,290 --> 00:23:59,610
How old were you?

586
00:23:59,610 --> 00:24:01,722
When I finished grade school?

587
00:24:01,722 --> 00:24:03,570
Mm-hmm.

588
00:24:03,570 --> 00:24:07,140
When you say grade, are you
talking through high school?

589
00:24:07,140 --> 00:24:11,580
No, I'm talking through sixth
grade, eighth grade, and so on.

590
00:24:11,580 --> 00:24:13,690
Sixth grade and eighth grade.

591
00:24:13,690 --> 00:24:16,410
OK, well, eighth
grade already was

592
00:24:16,410 --> 00:24:20,470
graduating from almost
high school, wasn't it?

593
00:24:20,470 --> 00:24:22,560

No, that's 12th grade.

594

00:24:22,560 --> 00:24:24,780

There was no 12th
grade at that time.

595

00:24:24,780 --> 00:24:25,280

Really?

596

00:24:25,280 --> 00:24:27,104

was eighth grade.

597

00:24:27,104 --> 00:24:27,870

Really?

598

00:24:27,870 --> 00:24:31,670

You had eight grades of school,
and then after that did you

599

00:24:31,670 --> 00:24:32,730

go further?

600

00:24:32,730 --> 00:24:33,920

Or did--

601

00:24:33,920 --> 00:24:35,550

I went much further.

602

00:24:35,550 --> 00:24:36,180

OK.

603

00:24:36,180 --> 00:24:40,260

I went four years in Germany
and France and Belgium.

604

00:24:40,260 --> 00:24:42,000

That's a different
kind of school.

605

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:42,660

Yeah.

606

00:24:42,660 --> 00:24:43,920

That's where I went.

607

00:24:43,920 --> 00:24:54,550

I mean, from the day that

I graduated in 1943--

608

00:24:54,550 --> 00:24:57,870

Then you would have gone

through 12 years of school.

609

00:24:57,870 --> 00:25:02,880

You have four years

of high school.

610

00:25:02,880 --> 00:25:05,230

And then you have two years

of middle school, usually,

611

00:25:05,230 --> 00:25:06,480

and six years of grade school.

612

00:25:06,480 --> 00:25:13,560

Well, I mean, as far as the

grade school, well, it was--

613

00:25:13,560 --> 00:25:16,530

I asked this in an awkward

way, what I kind of wanted

614

00:25:16,530 --> 00:25:20,400

to get a sense of is, did

you already enter high school

615

00:25:20,400 --> 00:25:22,470

in the late 1930s?

616

00:25:22,470 --> 00:25:24,600

Or did you enter high

school after the war

617

00:25:24,600 --> 00:25:25,658

started in Europe?

618
00:25:25,658 --> 00:25:27,200
That's kind of what
I was getting at.

619
00:25:27,200 --> 00:25:27,700
OK.

620
00:25:27,700 --> 00:25:35,300
Well, the war started
in Europe in 1933.

621
00:25:35,300 --> 00:25:37,260
No, 1939.

622
00:25:37,260 --> 00:25:38,190
'39.

623
00:25:38,190 --> 00:25:38,940
'39.

624
00:25:38,940 --> 00:25:41,305
Oh, but Hitler came
into power in '33.

625
00:25:41,305 --> 00:25:41,940
In '33.

626
00:25:41,940 --> 00:25:42,440
Yes, yes.

627
00:25:42,440 --> 00:25:43,770
OK, 1939.

628
00:25:43,770 --> 00:25:45,270
OK.

629
00:25:45,270 --> 00:25:47,160
So--

630

00:25:47,160 --> 00:25:49,770
Were you in high school then?

631
00:25:49,770 --> 00:25:53,100
Yes, they were preparing us.

632
00:25:53,100 --> 00:25:57,270
We knew that we would
never be able to go

633
00:25:57,270 --> 00:26:00,780
to college at that
time because we

634
00:26:00,780 --> 00:26:06,150
went from elementary
school, which was--

635
00:26:06,150 --> 00:26:12,430
I graduated June 30, 1943.

636
00:26:12,430 --> 00:26:12,930
OK.

637
00:26:12,930 --> 00:26:15,390
And then were you drafted,
or did you volunteer?

638
00:26:15,390 --> 00:26:16,110
Drafted.

639
00:26:16,110 --> 00:26:17,970
I was drafted.

640
00:26:17,970 --> 00:26:19,590
And I entered this service.

641
00:26:19,590 --> 00:26:27,180
And I graduated, as I
said, in June of 1943.

642
00:26:27,180 --> 00:26:34,190

And I was drafted in August 8th.

643

00:26:34,190 --> 00:26:35,280

That's not much time.

644

00:26:35,280 --> 00:26:36,630

Not at all, no.

645

00:26:36,630 --> 00:26:38,760

Less than not even
a month and a half.

646

00:26:38,760 --> 00:26:40,350

No.

647

00:26:40,350 --> 00:26:46,230

So I wanted to dwell a little
bit on the high school years.

648

00:26:46,230 --> 00:26:50,100

So that tells me that, yes, when
you were going to high school,

649

00:26:50,100 --> 00:26:54,990

your years in high school
were already the time when

650

00:26:54,990 --> 00:26:57,660

the war was raging in Europe.

651

00:26:57,660 --> 00:27:02,290

You know, if not freshman,
certainly sophomore, junior,

652

00:27:02,290 --> 00:27:03,590

senior year.

653

00:27:03,590 --> 00:27:04,442

Yes.

654

00:27:04,442 --> 00:27:05,650

And maybe even freshmen year.

655

00:27:05,650 --> 00:27:09,660

Well, 1943, I was
finished with high school.

656

00:27:09,660 --> 00:27:14,880

During those years, was there
talk of joining the war?

657

00:27:14,880 --> 00:27:16,980

Because the United States
had stayed out of it

658

00:27:16,980 --> 00:27:18,990

for such a long time.

659

00:27:18,990 --> 00:27:22,260

Was there talk?

660

00:27:22,260 --> 00:27:26,100

Well, everybody thought it
was just a matter of time

661

00:27:26,100 --> 00:27:28,780

that they would
have to, you see.

662

00:27:28,780 --> 00:27:29,280

OK.

663

00:27:29,280 --> 00:27:31,590

Did you get much news
about what was going on?

664

00:27:31,590 --> 00:27:33,420

Oh, yes.

665

00:27:33,420 --> 00:27:34,320

A lot of news.

666

00:27:34,320 --> 00:27:35,760

We were very well aware.

667

00:27:35,760 --> 00:27:39,330

I personally was very well aware of what was going on.

668

00:27:39,330 --> 00:27:42,120

Did you get news of what was happening to the Jews

669

00:27:42,120 --> 00:27:42,780

in Europe?

670

00:27:42,780 --> 00:27:44,490

Yes.

671

00:27:44,490 --> 00:27:47,100

Yes, I got--

672

00:27:47,100 --> 00:27:48,690

I was updated on that.

673

00:27:48,690 --> 00:27:52,610

I was very well aware of the persecution

674

00:27:52,610 --> 00:27:54,600

and the whole story.

675

00:27:54,600 --> 00:27:58,530

I read newspapers, and listen, that

676

00:27:58,530 --> 00:28:02,880

was the things that were easily available to know

677

00:28:02,880 --> 00:28:05,880

what was going on, if you wanted to know what was going on.

678

00:28:05,880 --> 00:28:06,380

OK.

679

00:28:06,380 --> 00:28:08,910

And you read The New
York Times, you said.

680

00:28:08,910 --> 00:28:11,672

And you read, was it The
Daily News that you mentioned?

681

00:28:11,672 --> 00:28:12,380

Daily News, yeah.

682

00:28:12,380 --> 00:28:13,320

The Daily News.

683

00:28:13,320 --> 00:28:15,480

Were there many
radio broadcasts?

684

00:28:15,480 --> 00:28:16,680

Yes.

685

00:28:16,680 --> 00:28:18,540

From abroad?

686

00:28:18,540 --> 00:28:20,910

Yeah, there was plenty of them.

687

00:28:20,910 --> 00:28:23,670

I don't know from abroad
or not, but there was.

688

00:28:23,670 --> 00:28:26,130

Well, there were
plenty about abroad.

689

00:28:26,130 --> 00:28:27,240

About the war, yes,

690

00:28:27,240 --> 00:28:28,140

About the war.

691
00:28:28,140 --> 00:28:29,680
Absolutely.

692
00:28:29,680 --> 00:28:33,050
Well, there were journalists
like William Shirer

693
00:28:33,050 --> 00:28:35,010
who were in Berlin at the time.

694
00:28:35,010 --> 00:28:36,360
Gabriel Heatter.

695
00:28:36,360 --> 00:28:37,050
Yeah.

696
00:28:37,050 --> 00:28:39,355
William Murrow.

697
00:28:39,355 --> 00:28:40,230
And things like that.

698
00:28:40,230 --> 00:28:41,740
Those names were
familiar to you?

699
00:28:41,740 --> 00:28:43,090
Yes, they were.

700
00:28:43,090 --> 00:28:43,650
OK.

701
00:28:43,650 --> 00:28:44,820
Yes, they were.

702
00:28:44,820 --> 00:28:45,630
Any others?

703
00:28:45,630 --> 00:28:49,680
That was the main source
of knowing what's going on.

704
00:28:49,680 --> 00:28:51,060
I mean--

705
00:28:51,060 --> 00:28:52,740
More than newspapers?

706
00:28:52,740 --> 00:28:55,180
Yeah, the newspapers.

707
00:28:55,180 --> 00:28:57,670
And also there was a couple of--

708
00:28:57,670 --> 00:29:01,187
like this Gabriel Heatter,
who you just mentioned.

709
00:29:01,187 --> 00:29:01,770
Well, you did.

710
00:29:01,770 --> 00:29:02,850
I don't know of him.

711
00:29:02,850 --> 00:29:04,050
I know of some others.

712
00:29:04,050 --> 00:29:07,170
Tell me, who was
he, Gabriel Heatter?

713
00:29:07,170 --> 00:29:11,880
He was actually a
correspondent that was

714
00:29:11,880 --> 00:29:15,380
on every night at 7 o'clock.

715
00:29:15,380 --> 00:29:16,380
OK.

716
00:29:16,380 --> 00:29:19,020

And he would bring all the news.

717

00:29:19,020 --> 00:29:24,690

And most people at that time,
that was their main source.

718

00:29:24,690 --> 00:29:26,610

So did people sit
around the radio

719

00:29:26,610 --> 00:29:28,065

to hear the 7 o'clock broadcast?

720

00:29:28,065 --> 00:29:29,160

Yes, yes.

721

00:29:29,160 --> 00:29:31,060

Like they do now
around television.

722

00:29:31,060 --> 00:29:31,560

Yes.

723

00:29:31,560 --> 00:29:32,640

Or they did for a while.

724

00:29:32,640 --> 00:29:36,054

Exactly, exactly.

725

00:29:36,054 --> 00:29:38,380

Oh, must have been
pretty influential.

726

00:29:38,380 --> 00:29:39,190

Who?

727

00:29:39,190 --> 00:29:40,830

Those newspapers broadcasters.

728

00:29:40,830 --> 00:29:46,200

Yes, well, there wasn't a lot of
them, but they packed a wallop.

729
00:29:46,200 --> 00:29:49,740
No question about it.

730
00:29:49,740 --> 00:29:52,280
Your brother was much younger.

731
00:29:52,280 --> 00:29:56,327
He was still like a kid
when you were drafted.

732
00:29:56,327 --> 00:29:56,910
Is that right?

733
00:29:56,910 --> 00:29:57,950
Yes, yes.

734
00:29:57,950 --> 00:30:03,120
He was-- let me see,
it was five years

735
00:30:03,120 --> 00:30:05,640
and seven or eight
months difference

736
00:30:05,640 --> 00:30:07,772
between the two of us.

737
00:30:07,772 --> 00:30:08,640
Yeah.

738
00:30:08,640 --> 00:30:14,080
We had a very close
relationship always.

739
00:30:14,080 --> 00:30:17,950
In fact, I remember little
things along the way.

740
00:30:17,950 --> 00:30:25,990
When I was leaving to
go into the service,

741
00:30:25,990 --> 00:30:30,610
I walked into the room
where he was sleeping.

742
00:30:30,610 --> 00:30:32,512
I remember that vividly.

743
00:30:32,512 --> 00:30:34,540
And he put the
covers over his head.

744
00:30:34,540 --> 00:30:36,200
He didn't want it.

745
00:30:36,200 --> 00:30:37,570
It was too hard for him.

746
00:30:37,570 --> 00:30:39,370
Too hard for him.

747
00:30:39,370 --> 00:30:41,500
What about for your parents?

748
00:30:41,500 --> 00:30:42,470
How were they reacting?

749
00:30:42,470 --> 00:30:45,610
Well, of course.

750
00:30:45,610 --> 00:30:50,650
In fact, the correspondence
that I had with my parents

751
00:30:50,650 --> 00:30:57,180
is that what I would do,
once I got into the service,

752
00:30:57,180 --> 00:30:59,060
and I was in the--

753

00:30:59,060 --> 00:31:02,100
you notice, I'm
leading back to my era.

754
00:31:02,100 --> 00:31:04,870
Well, no, I want to go there.

755
00:31:04,870 --> 00:31:05,990
I want to go there.

756
00:31:05,990 --> 00:31:15,000
But the idea is that actually
when I was in the service

757
00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:22,820
already, I used to try my
utmost to write to them.

758
00:31:22,820 --> 00:31:23,800
OK.

759
00:31:23,800 --> 00:31:29,530
But I would always write to
my father, not my mother.

760
00:31:29,530 --> 00:31:30,580
And why is that?

761
00:31:30,580 --> 00:31:31,360
Why was that?

762
00:31:31,360 --> 00:31:34,760
Because she wouldn't take it.

763
00:31:34,760 --> 00:31:37,425
In other words, this
would aggravate her

764
00:31:37,425 --> 00:31:40,090
to death, some of the stories.

765
00:31:40,090 --> 00:31:41,760

I would never get into it.

766

00:31:41,760 --> 00:31:46,750

I would always try to make sure
that the message that I gave

767

00:31:46,750 --> 00:31:50,350

was as pleasant as
I could make it.

768

00:31:50,350 --> 00:31:54,400

I would try to preserve
my parents from that.

769

00:31:54,400 --> 00:31:57,970

This is actually a tough thing
for a young teenager to do.

770

00:31:57,970 --> 00:32:01,555

Well, we were that way both,
my brother and myself both.

771

00:32:01,555 --> 00:32:03,760

You wanted to
spare your parents.

772

00:32:03,760 --> 00:32:06,670

Absolutely, absolutely.

773

00:32:06,670 --> 00:32:12,860

And later on, I found out
that that was a mistake, too.

774

00:32:12,860 --> 00:32:14,650

And why was it a mistake?

775

00:32:14,650 --> 00:32:15,190

Why?

776

00:32:15,190 --> 00:32:22,810

Because my father didn't take
the news from me as well.

777

00:32:22,810 --> 00:32:27,490

I preserved the
feeling of my mother,

778

00:32:27,490 --> 00:32:31,925

but my father was the one that--

779

00:32:31,925 --> 00:32:35,956

he was the one that it
aggravated him to death.

780

00:32:35,956 --> 00:32:37,520

Well, he was worried.

781

00:32:37,520 --> 00:32:38,160

Pardon me?

782

00:32:38,160 --> 00:32:39,940

He must have been worried.

783

00:32:39,940 --> 00:32:40,870

Oh, of course.

784

00:32:40,870 --> 00:32:41,770

Yeah.

785

00:32:41,770 --> 00:32:45,770

And so I would assume,
but you explain to me

786

00:32:45,770 --> 00:32:48,790

if I'm wrong, that
this communication,

787

00:32:48,790 --> 00:32:51,550

their primary concern
is, are you safe.

788

00:32:51,550 --> 00:32:52,480

Of course.

789

00:32:52,480 --> 00:32:52,980
OK.

790
00:32:52,980 --> 00:32:53,530
Of course.

791
00:32:53,530 --> 00:32:56,145
So you're telling them stuff
that any way would challenge

792
00:32:56,145 --> 00:32:56,645
that--

793
00:32:56,645 --> 00:32:59,255
Yeah, absolutely.

794
00:32:59,255 --> 00:33:04,100
And I would try to soften it.

795
00:33:04,100 --> 00:33:07,130
It was kind of
tough for parents.

796
00:33:07,130 --> 00:33:07,900
For everybody.

797
00:33:07,900 --> 00:33:11,500
You have no idea how
tough it was when

798
00:33:11,500 --> 00:33:14,935
they had to take a son to--

799
00:33:14,935 --> 00:33:17,770
in New York, it
was Grand Central.

800
00:33:17,770 --> 00:33:19,600
That's where you left from.

801
00:33:19,600 --> 00:33:22,180
So now I want to turn to that.

802
00:33:22,180 --> 00:33:24,670
When you were drafted,
it was August 8th,

803
00:33:24,670 --> 00:33:27,460
you said, that you
got your notice.

804
00:33:27,460 --> 00:33:28,660
Yes.

805
00:33:28,660 --> 00:33:30,910
How long before
you had to leave?

806
00:33:30,910 --> 00:33:33,460
When did you have to report?

807
00:33:33,460 --> 00:33:34,620
To the service?

808
00:33:34,620 --> 00:33:36,610
Yeah.

809
00:33:36,610 --> 00:33:37,972
That was the day.

810
00:33:37,972 --> 00:33:39,430
That was the day
that you reported.

811
00:33:39,430 --> 00:33:39,930
OK.

812
00:33:39,930 --> 00:33:40,450
Yes.

813
00:33:40,450 --> 00:33:41,600
That was the day.

814

00:33:41,600 --> 00:33:43,900
And that was the day you left?

815
00:33:43,900 --> 00:33:45,190
Yes.

816
00:33:45,190 --> 00:33:50,860
My mother took me down
to Grand Central Station.

817
00:33:50,860 --> 00:33:54,340
That's where they left from.

818
00:33:54,340 --> 00:33:58,570
They took you from there to Camp
Shanks, which was a New York--

819
00:33:58,570 --> 00:34:01,240
Where's that?

820
00:34:01,240 --> 00:34:02,980
Where in New York was that?

821
00:34:02,980 --> 00:34:04,000
That was upstate.

822
00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:06,070
That must've been about--

823
00:34:06,070 --> 00:34:10,528
maybe about 50, 60 miles
North of Manhattan.

824
00:34:10,528 --> 00:34:11,389
OK.

825
00:34:11,389 --> 00:34:13,030
And so this was
your introduction

826
00:34:13,030 --> 00:34:14,639
into the US military?

827
00:34:14,639 --> 00:34:16,090
Yes.

828
00:34:16,090 --> 00:34:18,940
Can you tell us about
it, explain a little?

829
00:34:18,940 --> 00:34:21,500
That's what I was
prepared to talk about.

830
00:34:21,500 --> 00:34:23,989
OK, that's what I was prepared--

831
00:34:23,989 --> 00:34:24,489
We're there.

832
00:34:24,489 --> 00:34:25,239
We're there.

833
00:34:25,239 --> 00:34:28,630
That's what I was studying, and
then you threw me a curve ball

834
00:34:28,630 --> 00:34:32,620
and you asked me
about my grandparents.

835
00:34:32,620 --> 00:34:33,840
I didn't pay attention to--

836
00:34:33,840 --> 00:34:34,715
I'm tricky like that.

837
00:34:34,715 --> 00:34:35,830
What can I tell you?

838
00:34:35,830 --> 00:34:38,110
I didn't pay that much
attention to them,

839

00:34:38,110 --> 00:34:40,179
and you started with it.

840

00:34:40,179 --> 00:34:41,750
I'll tell you why I do this.

841

00:34:41,750 --> 00:34:42,250
Why?

842

00:34:42,250 --> 00:34:45,219
It's that when we
come to the parts that

843

00:34:45,219 --> 00:34:47,540
are the central parts
of somebody's story--

844

00:34:47,540 --> 00:34:48,040
Yes.

845

00:34:48,040 --> 00:34:52,060
--I want to try and provide
context to whomever will watch

846

00:34:52,060 --> 00:34:56,449
our interview, so that they will
hear not only what you say--

847

00:34:56,449 --> 00:34:56,949
Yes.

848

00:34:56,949 --> 00:34:57,960
--but who you are.

849

00:34:57,960 --> 00:34:58,520
Exactly.

850

00:34:58,520 --> 00:35:00,130
I understand that fully.

851

00:35:00,130 --> 00:35:01,215

Yeah.

852
00:35:01,215 --> 00:35:03,790
And so then that's why I
ask about the people who

853
00:35:03,790 --> 00:35:06,430
would have been the ones
who influenced you the most.

854
00:35:06,430 --> 00:35:07,090
Yes.

855
00:35:07,090 --> 00:35:08,070
So.

856
00:35:08,070 --> 00:35:09,820
OK, I understand that.

857
00:35:09,820 --> 00:35:11,890
I do understand that.

858
00:35:11,890 --> 00:35:13,120
So it's not for nothing.

859
00:35:13,120 --> 00:35:14,680
No, of course.

860
00:35:14,680 --> 00:35:15,630
Of course not.

861
00:35:15,630 --> 00:35:17,770
I surely understand that.

862
00:35:17,770 --> 00:35:18,670
But--

863
00:35:18,670 --> 00:35:20,800
So now let's come to the
heart of the matter, when

864

00:35:20,800 --> 00:35:22,960
you are in the army.

865
00:35:22,960 --> 00:35:24,700
Tell me, what were
the first days

866
00:35:24,700 --> 00:35:26,410
like, the first weeks like?

867
00:35:26,410 --> 00:35:29,080
What did they make you do?

868
00:35:29,080 --> 00:35:34,480
Well, Camp Shanks was
a place that everybody

869
00:35:34,480 --> 00:35:39,820
from that area of New York
would go to Camp Shanks.

870
00:35:39,820 --> 00:35:47,450
They would get them ready
to go on the next step.

871
00:35:47,450 --> 00:35:52,870
And after that, they would
ship you to a more permanent--

872
00:35:52,870 --> 00:35:54,820
Did you go through any
sort of basic training

873
00:35:54,820 --> 00:35:55,750
to be at Camp Shanks?

874
00:35:55,750 --> 00:35:56,250
Yeah.

875
00:35:56,250 --> 00:35:57,670
What did basic training involve?

876

00:35:57,670 --> 00:36:06,600
From the initial situation where
they sent you from New York,

877
00:36:06,600 --> 00:36:11,470
say, up to Camp Shanks
to get you prepared,

878
00:36:11,470 --> 00:36:17,860
the next step was you would
be assigned for basic training

879
00:36:17,860 --> 00:36:20,200
and to join--

880
00:36:20,200 --> 00:36:23,600
you would have to join--
they would place you in an--

881
00:36:23,600 --> 00:36:27,795
And of all places, they
sent me to Mississippi.

882
00:36:27,795 --> 00:36:29,170
Well, that's
something different.

883
00:36:29,170 --> 00:36:30,850
That sure is
something different.

884
00:36:30,850 --> 00:36:34,480
I don't know how they placed
me to Mississippi, a guy

885
00:36:34,480 --> 00:36:35,590
from New York.

886
00:36:35,590 --> 00:36:37,350
Well, tell me about that.

887
00:36:37,350 --> 00:36:39,850
And what was-- that's where

you had your basic training?

888
00:36:39,850 --> 00:36:42,730
I had basic training
for one year.

889
00:36:42,730 --> 00:36:43,480
In Mississippi.

890
00:36:43,480 --> 00:36:46,510
So you were in Camp
Shanks for about how long?

891
00:36:46,510 --> 00:36:47,650
Not long at all.

892
00:36:47,650 --> 00:36:50,360
Maybe it was a question
of maybe a month.

893
00:36:50,360 --> 00:36:51,500
OK.

894
00:36:51,500 --> 00:36:53,580
They got you kind of prepared.

895
00:36:53,580 --> 00:36:59,750
They got you ready to let you
know what's in front of you.

896
00:36:59,750 --> 00:37:02,980
In other words, where you're
heading from that point on.

897
00:37:02,980 --> 00:37:04,480
So I have a number
of questions now.

898
00:37:04,480 --> 00:37:06,540
If we're talking
chronologically,

899

00:37:06,540 --> 00:37:08,810
then you're in Mississippi
for about a year.

900
00:37:08,810 --> 00:37:09,310
Yes.

901
00:37:09,310 --> 00:37:12,370
I would say that
you're probably,

902
00:37:12,370 --> 00:37:16,240
for a year, that would be from,
let's say, September, October

903
00:37:16,240 --> 00:37:21,380
'43 to September, October '44.

904
00:37:21,380 --> 00:37:26,110
1944, November of 1944.

905
00:37:26,110 --> 00:37:28,510
Is when you're finished
with Mississippi.

906
00:37:28,510 --> 00:37:29,760
Exactly.

907
00:37:29,760 --> 00:37:32,830
And that tells me that
you were spared D-day.

908
00:37:32,830 --> 00:37:34,900
You did not
participate in D-day.

909
00:37:34,900 --> 00:37:38,200
I did not participate
in D-day, exactly.

910
00:37:38,200 --> 00:37:40,130
Which was June 6th.

911
00:37:40,130 --> 00:37:40,750
Right.

912
00:37:40,750 --> 00:37:43,060
So let's talk a little
bit about the year

913
00:37:43,060 --> 00:37:47,590
that you were in Mississippi.

914
00:37:47,590 --> 00:37:50,350
One of the things
that some people

915
00:37:50,350 --> 00:37:54,610
I've talked to who were
in US military forces,

916
00:37:54,610 --> 00:37:57,820
who were young guys like
yourself at the time,

917
00:37:57,820 --> 00:38:01,090
is that this was
the last great--

918
00:38:01,090 --> 00:38:07,960
they told me-- this was
the last great event that

919
00:38:07,960 --> 00:38:10,810
was an equalizer in
the United States,

920
00:38:10,810 --> 00:38:14,800
in that kids from
different backgrounds

921
00:38:14,800 --> 00:38:19,340
got thrown together, who would
never have met otherwise.

922

00:38:19,340 --> 00:38:19,840
Yeah.

923
00:38:19,840 --> 00:38:22,480
Rich kids with poor
kids, kids from the East

924
00:38:22,480 --> 00:38:24,040
with kids from the Midwest.

925
00:38:24,040 --> 00:38:27,670
Well, in Mississippi, that's the
thing that confused me no end.

926
00:38:27,670 --> 00:38:33,010
Because most of those that lived
in Kentucky and Mississippi

927
00:38:33,010 --> 00:38:36,350
and Louisiana were
sent to that camp.

928
00:38:36,350 --> 00:38:37,230
And then you.

929
00:38:37,230 --> 00:38:41,170
And me and three
or four other guys

930
00:38:41,170 --> 00:38:43,630
that were from
Manhattan and Brooklyn

931
00:38:43,630 --> 00:38:47,080
ended up there, which
was a surprising thing.

932
00:38:47,080 --> 00:38:49,330
So was this a part of
America you had just

933
00:38:49,330 --> 00:38:51,250
never known about before?

934
00:38:51,250 --> 00:38:54,730
Well, I m, I didn't
mingle with that,

935
00:38:54,730 --> 00:39:00,700
but this was a part that I--

936
00:39:00,700 --> 00:39:02,950
first of all, we were hoping--

937
00:39:02,950 --> 00:39:06,280
we were hoping-- that
from the beginning--

938
00:39:06,280 --> 00:39:07,522
I'm gonna backtrack a little.

939
00:39:07,522 --> 00:39:08,022
Sure.

940
00:39:08,022 --> 00:39:08,647
Go right ahead.

941
00:39:08,647 --> 00:39:14,710
We were hoping where they sent
you, whether it was the Army,

942
00:39:14,710 --> 00:39:21,190
or whether it was the Navy, or
whether it was the Air Corps,

943
00:39:21,190 --> 00:39:24,550
we were three very,
very close friends

944
00:39:24,550 --> 00:39:27,420
that were the same age that
lived in the neighborhood.

945
00:39:27,420 --> 00:39:29,020
OK.

946
00:39:29,020 --> 00:39:32,230
And we used to see
each other, you know,

947
00:39:32,230 --> 00:39:35,170
like three guys would.

948
00:39:35,170 --> 00:39:42,130
And it so happened that we all
had the same idea, that we'd

949
00:39:42,130 --> 00:39:45,070
like to go in the Navy.

950
00:39:45,070 --> 00:39:46,990
But we had no pref--

951
00:39:46,990 --> 00:39:49,270
we didn't have any chance.

952
00:39:49,270 --> 00:39:52,510
You couldn't tell them
where you wanted to go.

953
00:39:52,510 --> 00:39:55,810
So after they put you
through when you first

954
00:39:55,810 --> 00:40:00,820
got going on the 8th of
August, all they would do

955
00:40:00,820 --> 00:40:05,380
is check your physical
position, and then they

956
00:40:05,380 --> 00:40:12,070
would stamp your papers,
whether it was Army, or Navy.

957
00:40:12,070 --> 00:40:13,270

They made the choice.

958

00:40:13,270 --> 00:40:15,970

They made the choice for you.

959

00:40:15,970 --> 00:40:19,990

So my mother prayed
for a week beforehand

960

00:40:19,990 --> 00:40:22,810

that I would end up in the Navy.

961

00:40:22,810 --> 00:40:26,290

And I asked her, Mom, why?

962

00:40:26,290 --> 00:40:29,420

She says, because I
assume that in the Navy

963

00:40:29,420 --> 00:40:32,320

you'll always have
a place to sleep.

964

00:40:32,320 --> 00:40:34,600

That was her thing.

965

00:40:34,600 --> 00:40:37,210

Well, you know,
it has its logic.

966

00:40:37,210 --> 00:40:38,210

It has its logic.

967

00:40:38,210 --> 00:40:39,250

Yeah.

968

00:40:39,250 --> 00:40:41,500

So the idea is that--

969

00:40:41,500 --> 00:40:43,390

I was stamped Army.

970
00:40:43,390 --> 00:40:44,800
OK.

971
00:40:44,800 --> 00:40:48,910
The other two friends that
I had mentioned to you,

972
00:40:48,910 --> 00:40:53,770
one ended in the Navy,
and the third one

973
00:40:53,770 --> 00:40:56,630
ended up in the Air Corps.

974
00:40:56,630 --> 00:40:57,920
All separate places.

975
00:40:57,920 --> 00:40:59,690
Services, yeah.

976
00:40:59,690 --> 00:41:05,570
And if I want to push
it a little further,

977
00:41:05,570 --> 00:41:08,750
the three of us, we never
saw each other after that.

978
00:41:08,750 --> 00:41:10,000
We didn't--

979
00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:11,390
You mean, after
the war was over?

980
00:41:11,390 --> 00:41:11,960
No.

981
00:41:11,960 --> 00:41:12,180
No.

982

00:41:12,180 --> 00:41:12,440
Oh, no.

983
00:41:12,440 --> 00:41:13,965
During the war,
during your service.

984
00:41:13,965 --> 00:41:14,840
Yeah, during the war.

985
00:41:14,840 --> 00:41:18,830
I mean, we were in different
parts of the world, actually.

986
00:41:18,830 --> 00:41:22,860
What were the names of
those two other guys?

987
00:41:22,860 --> 00:41:24,586
That was a tough question.

988
00:41:24,586 --> 00:41:26,490
I'm sorry.

989
00:41:26,490 --> 00:41:33,140
One of them was Italian, Anthony
Maggio, I remember his name.

990
00:41:33,140 --> 00:41:37,820
And the guy that ended up
in the Air Corps, his name

991
00:41:37,820 --> 00:41:40,810
was Robert Poster.

992
00:41:40,810 --> 00:41:41,820
Robert Poster.

993
00:41:41,820 --> 00:41:42,320
Poster.

994
00:41:42,320 --> 00:41:43,165

P-O-S-T-E-R.

995

00:41:43,165 --> 00:41:45,290

Did they both survive the war?

996

00:41:45,290 --> 00:41:46,700

No.

997

00:41:46,700 --> 00:41:48,080

What happened?

998

00:41:48,080 --> 00:41:53,780

The guy that ended
up in the Navy,

999

00:41:53,780 --> 00:41:56,990

he was on a destroyer escort.

1000

00:41:56,990 --> 00:41:58,250

OK.

1001

00:41:58,250 --> 00:42:03,770

And and is obligation
was in down in the--

1002

00:42:03,770 --> 00:42:08,420

I forgot the part of
the ship that he was on.

1003

00:42:08,420 --> 00:42:10,325

And they had an explosion.

1004

00:42:10,325 --> 00:42:15,340

He got killed on that.

1005

00:42:15,340 --> 00:42:18,220

And Rob Poster,
which we would have

1006

00:42:18,220 --> 00:42:20,290

loved to end up
in the Air Corps,

1007
00:42:20,290 --> 00:42:25,500
because life there
was a lot better,

1008
00:42:25,500 --> 00:42:30,840
he ended up being
shot down over Tokyo.

1009
00:42:30,840 --> 00:42:32,970
So he was gone.

1010
00:42:32,970 --> 00:42:41,130
So the guy that survived and
feared the other two got home.

1011
00:42:41,130 --> 00:42:42,180
And they didn't.

1012
00:42:42,180 --> 00:42:44,010
I mean, that's how
life is, how you

1013
00:42:44,010 --> 00:42:47,490
can predict what takes place.

1014
00:42:47,490 --> 00:42:51,990
And this was one perfect example
how what took place there,

1015
00:42:51,990 --> 00:42:52,510
though.

1016
00:42:52,510 --> 00:42:53,810
Wow.

1017
00:42:53,810 --> 00:42:56,340
But we spent a year there.

1018
00:42:56,340 --> 00:42:58,350
It was a tough year.

1019

00:42:58,350 --> 00:43:01,440

In fact, I have to tell you
one little incident that may

1020

00:43:01,440 --> 00:43:04,590

be interesting to you, though.

1021

00:43:04,590 --> 00:43:10,170

We were out in a field
doing you know rows.

1022

00:43:10,170 --> 00:43:13,680

Training was constant.

1023

00:43:13,680 --> 00:43:23,040

And the Sergeant came out, and
he says, you have a visitor.

1024

00:43:23,040 --> 00:43:24,060

A visitor?

1025

00:43:24,060 --> 00:43:26,286

I don't know anybody
in Mississippi.

1026

00:43:26,286 --> 00:43:26,960

Yeah.

1027

00:43:26,960 --> 00:43:31,200

Who is gonna--
who's the visitor?

1028

00:43:31,200 --> 00:43:34,350

So he takes me to what
they call the orderly room.

1029

00:43:34,350 --> 00:43:38,256

That's where the captain
stays and all that.

1030

00:43:38,256 --> 00:43:41,030

I come there.

1031
00:43:41,030 --> 00:43:42,120
Who do I find there?

1032
00:43:42,120 --> 00:43:43,510
My mother.

1033
00:43:43,510 --> 00:43:44,010
Really?

1034
00:43:44,010 --> 00:43:45,480
Would you believe that?

1035
00:43:45,480 --> 00:43:48,360
She traveled all the
way from New York?

1036
00:43:48,360 --> 00:43:54,165
I don't think that woman ever
traveled out of Manhattan.

1037
00:43:54,165 --> 00:43:55,530
[LAUGHTER]

1038
00:43:55,530 --> 00:43:58,890
I can tell you, I think
New Yorkers are like that.

1039
00:43:58,890 --> 00:44:00,550
You know, the world
is in Manhattan.

1040
00:44:00,550 --> 00:44:04,800
And she came down
to visit her son.

1041
00:44:04,800 --> 00:44:05,670
Wow.

1042
00:44:05,670 --> 00:44:07,870
I think that is amazing.

1043
00:44:07,870 --> 00:44:12,660
I can't tell you how
surprised and everything.

1044
00:44:12,660 --> 00:44:15,840
And they treated her so well.

1045
00:44:15,840 --> 00:44:22,230
She came down on a train
that left from New York to--

1046
00:44:22,230 --> 00:44:22,890
Mississippi.

1047
00:44:22,890 --> 00:44:25,470
To Mississippi on a train.

1048
00:44:25,470 --> 00:44:27,360
Well, I mean, that says it all.

1049
00:44:27,360 --> 00:44:33,900
And she used to tell me
stories that most on the train

1050
00:44:33,900 --> 00:44:35,060
were troops.

1051
00:44:35,060 --> 00:44:35,760
OK.

1052
00:44:35,760 --> 00:44:38,790
You know, American soldiers.

1053
00:44:38,790 --> 00:44:42,775
They treated her
so well on the--

1054
00:44:42,775 --> 00:44:47,190
they didn't know what to do
for her when they found out

1055

00:44:47,190 --> 00:44:50,160
that she's going to
Mississippi to visit her son.

1056
00:44:50,160 --> 00:44:51,930
I mean, this was a--

1057
00:44:51,930 --> 00:44:54,885
Well, this is what every son
would want his mother to do,

1058
00:44:54,885 --> 00:44:55,640
you know?

1059
00:44:55,640 --> 00:44:58,930
Well, that was unbelievable.

1060
00:44:58,930 --> 00:45:05,130
And then-- this was so much
a part of the whole story,

1061
00:45:05,130 --> 00:45:07,490
though.

1062
00:45:07,490 --> 00:45:11,010
I met a woman there.

1063
00:45:11,010 --> 00:45:12,495
She must have been in the 80s.

1064
00:45:12,495 --> 00:45:15,060

1065
00:45:15,060 --> 00:45:17,970
And she had a--

1066
00:45:17,970 --> 00:45:22,920
woman alone that
had her own home

1067
00:45:22,920 --> 00:45:29,280
in Centreville, Mississippi,

a small little town.

1068
00:45:29,280 --> 00:45:33,420
And she-- I don't know how
she met me or whatever.

1069
00:45:33,420 --> 00:45:37,500
But when she found out
that my mother came down,

1070
00:45:37,500 --> 00:45:43,230
she offered us to
stay at her home.

1071
00:45:43,230 --> 00:45:45,480
And we stayed at her home.

1072
00:45:45,480 --> 00:45:49,860
And every single morning,
they allowed me--

1073
00:45:49,860 --> 00:45:56,160
the captain allowed me to
have breakfast with her.

1074
00:45:56,160 --> 00:45:58,650
She would make breakfast
every morning for us,

1075
00:45:58,650 --> 00:46:01,550
so that I could
be with my mother.

1076
00:46:01,550 --> 00:46:03,300
That is so cool.

1077
00:46:03,300 --> 00:46:04,350
Isn't that cool?

1078
00:46:04,350 --> 00:46:05,910
That is way cool.

1079

00:46:05,910 --> 00:46:07,560
Holy mackerel.

1080
00:46:07,560 --> 00:46:09,450
It's sort of like
people know what--

1081
00:46:09,450 --> 00:46:13,080
you know, when I was
younger, of course,

1082
00:46:13,080 --> 00:46:15,730
I thought that 18 and 19
years old, you're adult.

1083
00:46:15,730 --> 00:46:16,230
Yeah.

1084
00:46:16,230 --> 00:46:20,190
Now when I think of a kid,
I think of them as kids.

1085
00:46:20,190 --> 00:46:21,400
They were just kids.

1086
00:46:21,400 --> 00:46:21,900
Absolutely.

1087
00:46:21,900 --> 00:46:23,790
And you're thrown into a war.

1088
00:46:23,790 --> 00:46:24,300
Absolutely.

1089
00:46:24,300 --> 00:46:26,310
And that was the
least they could do.

1090
00:46:26,310 --> 00:46:27,940
Absolutely.

1091
00:46:27,940 --> 00:46:28,590

Wow.

1092
00:46:28,590 --> 00:46:29,970
Unbelievable.

1093
00:46:29,970 --> 00:46:31,390
That's a lovely story.

1094
00:46:31,390 --> 00:46:35,460
Yeah, but the idea is,
she was so unbelievable.

1095
00:46:35,460 --> 00:46:37,860
That's the kind of--

1096
00:46:37,860 --> 00:46:40,320
to come all the way down.

1097
00:46:40,320 --> 00:46:42,540
It really didn't help me much.

1098
00:46:42,540 --> 00:46:44,280
I was happy to see her.

1099
00:46:44,280 --> 00:46:49,120
But it was an obligation
to be with her at night.

1100
00:46:49,120 --> 00:46:49,980
Not to--

1101
00:46:49,980 --> 00:46:50,730
Right.

1102
00:46:50,730 --> 00:46:51,997
I don't want her to be alone.

1103
00:46:51,997 --> 00:46:53,205
You know, that kind of stuff.

1104
00:46:53,205 --> 00:46:53,800

Of course not.

1105

00:46:53,800 --> 00:46:54,760

Of course not.

1106

00:46:54,760 --> 00:46:56,470

But that, I remember
that vividly.

1107

00:46:56,470 --> 00:46:57,867

It's surprising.

1108

00:46:57,867 --> 00:46:59,700

Well, you know, when I
asked you before what

1109

00:46:59,700 --> 00:47:03,540

was your mother's personality
like, this shows it.

1110

00:47:03,540 --> 00:47:04,830

That was her personality.

1111

00:47:04,830 --> 00:47:05,750

Yeah.

1112

00:47:05,750 --> 00:47:09,030

Her personality, she'd
give her life for her kids.

1113

00:47:09,030 --> 00:47:10,230

Yeah.

1114

00:47:10,230 --> 00:47:11,260

You see?

1115

00:47:11,260 --> 00:47:15,660

And that explains
almost what the story--

1116

00:47:15,660 --> 00:47:22,290

I had pictures that we

took there of Mrs. Dawson,

1117
00:47:22,290 --> 00:47:22,855
I remember.

1118
00:47:22,855 --> 00:47:23,605
That was her name?

1119
00:47:23,605 --> 00:47:28,530
The gray haired lady that
was so unbelievably--

1120
00:47:28,530 --> 00:47:30,620
she was fabulous.

1121
00:47:30,620 --> 00:47:32,010
And here I remember her.

1122
00:47:32,010 --> 00:47:35,550
Is it remarkable that the short
term memory gets stronger?

1123
00:47:35,550 --> 00:47:36,410
Here it is.

1124
00:47:36,410 --> 00:47:38,340
Well, this is the
long term memory.

1125
00:47:38,340 --> 00:47:38,940
Yes.

1126
00:47:38,940 --> 00:47:39,870
This is the long term.

1127
00:47:39,870 --> 00:47:44,010
No, but I meant that
short term is eluding me,

1128
00:47:44,010 --> 00:47:46,590
but the long term
sticks with you.

1129
00:47:46,590 --> 00:47:47,839
Yeah.

1130
00:47:47,839 --> 00:47:48,339
Yeah.

1131
00:47:48,339 --> 00:47:51,870

1132
00:47:51,870 --> 00:47:55,050
When you were with these
guys in basic training,

1133
00:47:55,050 --> 00:47:57,930
what was the conversation
usually about?

1134
00:47:57,930 --> 00:48:02,370
What did guys talk about when
they were going through this?

1135
00:48:02,370 --> 00:48:03,960
Was it where you're
gonna be posted,

1136
00:48:03,960 --> 00:48:05,085
what you're gonna be doing?

1137
00:48:05,085 --> 00:48:05,725
What was it?

1138
00:48:05,725 --> 00:48:06,600
I don't want to lead.

1139
00:48:06,600 --> 00:48:09,540
I just want to find out.

1140
00:48:09,540 --> 00:48:10,590
What do you remember?

1141

00:48:10,590 --> 00:48:14,130
What was the conversation?

1142
00:48:14,130 --> 00:48:17,670
Almost everybody was pretty
much the same, you know?

1143
00:48:17,670 --> 00:48:20,120
When are they gonna
get out of it?

1144
00:48:20,120 --> 00:48:23,870
When are they leaving the
service and stuff like that.

1145
00:48:23,870 --> 00:48:24,370
OK.

1146
00:48:24,370 --> 00:48:28,800
But some of them
were complainers.

1147
00:48:28,800 --> 00:48:31,740
Constantly complaining.

1148
00:48:31,740 --> 00:48:35,580
And others had a
disposition that

1149
00:48:35,580 --> 00:48:40,170
knew that they had no choice
and made the best of it.

1150
00:48:40,170 --> 00:48:46,395
So you would mingle with those
that fit your category more.

1151
00:48:46,395 --> 00:48:49,710

1152
00:48:49,710 --> 00:48:51,460
Did politics enter this at all?

1153
00:48:51,460 --> 00:48:51,960
Never.

1154
00:48:51,960 --> 00:48:54,030
In the sense that there
were people who thought

1155
00:48:54,030 --> 00:48:55,530
this was a good war.

1156
00:48:55,530 --> 00:48:57,030
We have to be fighting this.

1157
00:48:57,030 --> 00:48:57,600
Never.

1158
00:48:57,600 --> 00:48:58,100
Never?

1159
00:48:58,100 --> 00:49:00,360
Never heard anything
about politics.

1160
00:49:00,360 --> 00:49:03,660
You know, the only
thing that I--

1161
00:49:03,660 --> 00:49:07,770
had after a while,
I remember vividly

1162
00:49:07,770 --> 00:49:13,980
that a lot of these Southerners
hated Roosevelt. Hated him.

1163
00:49:13,980 --> 00:49:16,080
Why?

1164
00:49:16,080 --> 00:49:17,820
Because he caused the war.

1165

00:49:17,820 --> 00:49:19,260
That's according to them.

1166
00:49:19,260 --> 00:49:22,680
He was responsible
for them being there.

1167
00:49:22,680 --> 00:49:24,390
Well, you know, that
that speaks to that.

1168
00:49:24,390 --> 00:49:28,470
Because there was
this huge isolationist

1169
00:49:28,470 --> 00:49:29,915
wing in the United States.

1170
00:49:29,915 --> 00:49:30,540
Yeah.

1171
00:49:30,540 --> 00:49:33,690
A force of people who
said, let's keep out of it.

1172
00:49:33,690 --> 00:49:35,730
You know, this is
a European thing.

1173
00:49:35,730 --> 00:49:39,720
Yeah, well, the idea is
that they always used to--

1174
00:49:39,720 --> 00:49:41,460
I never got involved
with those kind

1175
00:49:41,460 --> 00:49:44,460
of conversations with them.

1176
00:49:44,460 --> 00:49:48,270
Even though there was
a lot of anti-Jewish--

1177
00:49:48,270 --> 00:49:49,410
Well, I was coming--

1178
00:49:49,410 --> 00:49:51,550
I wanted to get to that as well.

1179
00:49:51,550 --> 00:49:52,160
OK.

1180
00:49:52,160 --> 00:49:53,940
See, when I was
asking about being

1181
00:49:53,940 --> 00:49:56,190
thrown in with different
kinds of people--

1182
00:49:56,190 --> 00:49:56,985
Yes.

1183
00:49:56,985 --> 00:50:00,210
--did that show itself?

1184
00:50:00,210 --> 00:50:01,410
Did that appear?

1185
00:50:01,410 --> 00:50:02,160
Yeah.

1186
00:50:02,160 --> 00:50:02,790
How?

1187
00:50:02,790 --> 00:50:05,790
Very much so, very much so.

1188
00:50:05,790 --> 00:50:09,360
They were very--
quite a few of them

1189
00:50:09,360 --> 00:50:14,040

were very antisemitic when they found out that we were Jewish.

1190
00:50:14,040 --> 00:50:14,540
Very--

1191
00:50:14,540 --> 00:50:19,230
Were there many Jewish guys in basic training with you

1192
00:50:19,230 --> 00:50:20,490
in Mississippi?

1193
00:50:20,490 --> 00:50:21,810
There wasn't that many.

1194
00:50:21,810 --> 00:50:26,830
I mean, my particular group, there was only six.

1195
00:50:26,830 --> 00:50:27,330
That's all.

1196
00:50:27,330 --> 00:50:28,220
Just six.

1197
00:50:28,220 --> 00:50:30,570
And out of how many?

1198
00:50:30,570 --> 00:50:34,710
Well, out of--

1199
00:50:34,710 --> 00:50:37,680
I would say--

1200
00:50:37,680 --> 00:50:40,950
I'll break it down to, a company was 1,000.

1201
00:50:40,950 --> 00:50:43,590
So six out of 1,000 is not many.

1202

00:50:43,590 --> 00:50:44,760

No, it's not many at all.

1203

00:50:44,760 --> 00:50:46,490

It's not many, though.

1204

00:50:46,490 --> 00:50:46,990

OK.

1205

00:50:46,990 --> 00:50:50,330

But the idea was that--

1206

00:50:50,330 --> 00:50:51,810

I had some in particular.

1207

00:50:51,810 --> 00:50:57,040

I remember vividly a
sergeant there from New York,

1208

00:50:57,040 --> 00:51:01,780

from New York, was probably
the worst antisemite

1209

00:51:01,780 --> 00:51:06,180

that I've ever come across.

1210

00:51:06,180 --> 00:51:09,135

Was it the stuff he
said or how he behaved?

1211

00:51:09,135 --> 00:51:13,350

Or did he treat you
differently than the others?

1212

00:51:13,350 --> 00:51:15,360

Well, yes, I would say so.

1213

00:51:15,360 --> 00:51:20,910

Because after a while,
they were pulling

1214

00:51:20,910 --> 00:51:25,890
troops out of
Mississippi infantry,

1215
00:51:25,890 --> 00:51:31,140
and sending them as
replacements to Europe.

1216
00:51:31,140 --> 00:51:35,610
So what they would do
is, they would take them,

1217
00:51:35,610 --> 00:51:40,020
and they would
present their choices,

1218
00:51:40,020 --> 00:51:43,850
who they wanted to
my particular person,

1219
00:51:43,850 --> 00:51:48,000
a lieutenant was in
charge of our group.

1220
00:51:48,000 --> 00:51:55,980
And every time that they sent a
list, I was always on the list.

1221
00:51:55,980 --> 00:51:58,380
And I didn't want to
go in the worst way,

1222
00:51:58,380 --> 00:52:03,730
because I started to make
some very good friends there.

1223
00:52:03,730 --> 00:52:09,480
And if I had to go into
combat, at least I knew them.

1224
00:52:09,480 --> 00:52:11,340
That's a certain
feeling that you

1225

00:52:11,340 --> 00:52:15,850

get to know the guys that
you're with, you know?

1226

00:52:15,850 --> 00:52:17,460

I've heard that
was real important?

1227

00:52:17,460 --> 00:52:19,440

Yes, very important.

1228

00:52:19,440 --> 00:52:26,010

And my particular lieutenant,
who was from North Carolina,

1229

00:52:26,010 --> 00:52:31,230

had the opportunity
to switch names.

1230

00:52:31,230 --> 00:52:35,670

And he always took my
name off and replaced it

1231

00:52:35,670 --> 00:52:36,750

with somebody else.

1232

00:52:36,750 --> 00:52:38,060

In other words, he--

1233

00:52:38,060 --> 00:52:40,080

He'd undo what the sergeant did.

1234

00:52:40,080 --> 00:52:41,980

What the sergeant did.

1235

00:52:41,980 --> 00:52:42,786

Right.

1236

00:52:42,786 --> 00:52:43,680

Wow.

1237

00:52:43,680 --> 00:52:47,790
And that was a form
of antisemitism.

1238
00:52:47,790 --> 00:52:50,440
There's no question about it.

1239
00:52:50,440 --> 00:52:56,130
But the things that he
did was unbelievable.

1240
00:52:56,130 --> 00:53:00,630
We had somebody in our
particular company area.

1241
00:53:00,630 --> 00:53:03,480

1242
00:53:03,480 --> 00:53:05,670
I was a mortar sergeant.

1243
00:53:05,670 --> 00:53:07,590
I don't know if you
heard of a mortar.

1244
00:53:07,590 --> 00:53:08,870
No, what is that?

1245
00:53:08,870 --> 00:53:11,220
A mortar is an artillery piece.

1246
00:53:11,220 --> 00:53:11,730
Ah, mortars.

1247
00:53:11,730 --> 00:53:13,300
For the infantry.

1248
00:53:13,300 --> 00:53:13,800
OK.

1249
00:53:13,800 --> 00:53:15,310
You know.

1250
00:53:15,310 --> 00:53:21,240
And I had this particular guy.

1251
00:53:21,240 --> 00:53:24,660
To everybody, he
seemed effeminate.

1252
00:53:24,660 --> 00:53:25,890
OK.

1253
00:53:25,890 --> 00:53:28,440
And that's all this
sergeant had to know.

1254
00:53:28,440 --> 00:53:31,650
He was in his particular outfit.

1255
00:53:31,650 --> 00:53:34,440
He would aggravate him to death.

1256
00:53:34,440 --> 00:53:40,110
Because he decided
that he was gay.

1257
00:53:40,110 --> 00:53:43,890
And we used-- it
galled us, because it

1258
00:53:43,890 --> 00:53:46,560
doesn't make any difference
whether they were.

1259
00:53:46,560 --> 00:53:50,680
They're still guys that are
putting their life on the line,

1260
00:53:50,680 --> 00:53:52,350
and what's the difference?

1261
00:53:52,350 --> 00:53:55,170
He was a quiet guy.

1262
00:53:55,170 --> 00:54:01,410
Finally, he requested
that they transfer him.

1263
00:54:01,410 --> 00:54:02,010
This guy?

1264
00:54:02,010 --> 00:54:02,675
This guy.

1265
00:54:02,675 --> 00:54:04,050
Because he was
picked on so much.

1266
00:54:04,050 --> 00:54:05,240
Yes.

1267
00:54:05,240 --> 00:54:07,200
He was picked on so much.

1268
00:54:07,200 --> 00:54:08,820
And what did they do?

1269
00:54:08,820 --> 00:54:12,630
He requested to go into the--

1270
00:54:12,630 --> 00:54:15,490
what the heck is
the name of the--

1271
00:54:15,490 --> 00:54:18,810
the guy that was--

1272
00:54:18,810 --> 00:54:23,730
that very unbelievable
outfit, the--

1273
00:54:23,730 --> 00:54:26,390
they were written up.

1274

00:54:26,390 --> 00:54:30,110
When-- oh, what's his name?

1275
00:54:30,110 --> 00:54:32,430
The guy that they killed?

1276
00:54:32,430 --> 00:54:35,110
What was the name of the--

1277
00:54:35,110 --> 00:54:36,540
I know, it slips your mind--

1278
00:54:36,540 --> 00:54:39,810
No, but this is-- this is--

1279
00:54:39,810 --> 00:54:42,210
what's his name?

1280
00:54:42,210 --> 00:54:42,870
Rangers?

1281
00:54:42,870 --> 00:54:48,720
Not Rangers, but the most
difficult position to be in,

1282
00:54:48,720 --> 00:54:52,110
he volunteered for it,
this particular guy,

1283
00:54:52,110 --> 00:54:54,510
which was amazing.

1284
00:54:54,510 --> 00:54:58,110
Because he wanted
to get away from--

1285
00:54:58,110 --> 00:54:58,950
The sergeant.

1286
00:54:58,950 --> 00:55:01,140
From the Sergeant.

1287

00:55:01,140 --> 00:55:05,830

And we found out, and
he was shipped overseas.

1288

00:55:05,830 --> 00:55:08,580

1289

00:55:08,580 --> 00:55:13,940

And word came back that
he got an unbelievable--

1290

00:55:13,940 --> 00:55:17,800

1291

00:55:17,800 --> 00:55:23,100

they gave him an award that
was unbelievable for heroism.

1292

00:55:23,100 --> 00:55:28,920

So how wrong they labeled
this guy and made--

1293

00:55:28,920 --> 00:55:33,780

life was tough enough without
having somebody like this.

1294

00:55:33,780 --> 00:55:35,800

Oh, that's a real education.

1295

00:55:35,800 --> 00:55:37,440

Real education.

1296

00:55:37,440 --> 00:55:39,020

But I want to tell
you something.

1297

00:55:39,020 --> 00:55:43,750

And that is that he would--

1298

00:55:43,750 --> 00:55:49,260

we were six of us, and
I was always picked

1299
00:55:49,260 --> 00:55:52,680
to get out of his outfit.

1300
00:55:52,680 --> 00:55:54,020
I mean, because I was Jewish.

1301
00:55:54,020 --> 00:55:58,350

1302
00:55:58,350 --> 00:56:00,300
And he wasn't the only one.

1303
00:56:00,300 --> 00:56:05,420
The story with this young man,
there was another one there,

1304
00:56:05,420 --> 00:56:07,560
too, that I remember vividly.

1305
00:56:07,560 --> 00:56:08,940
Another sergeant or another--

1306
00:56:08,940 --> 00:56:11,550
No, another ordinary private.

1307
00:56:11,550 --> 00:56:13,260
OK.

1308
00:56:13,260 --> 00:56:16,020
And this was during--

1309
00:56:16,020 --> 00:56:20,024
this is while we
were in Germany now.

1310
00:56:20,024 --> 00:56:20,910
OK.

1311
00:56:20,910 --> 00:56:21,655
Then let's--

1312
00:56:21,655 --> 00:56:23,000
Let's hold off on that.

1313
00:56:23,000 --> 00:56:24,480
Yeah, let's hold off.

1314
00:56:24,480 --> 00:56:27,240
Unless it has nothing
really to do with Germany.

1315
00:56:27,240 --> 00:56:29,550
It's an incident
within the service.

1316
00:56:29,550 --> 00:56:31,200
It has nothing to
do with Germany.

1317
00:56:31,200 --> 00:56:33,640
Then tell me now, because
we may forget later.

1318
00:56:33,640 --> 00:56:35,820
So what was this other
guy, this private

1319
00:56:35,820 --> 00:56:37,820
who was picking on someone?

1320
00:56:37,820 --> 00:56:40,530
No, the private wasn't,
but the sergeant.

1321
00:56:40,530 --> 00:56:41,850
Picked on the private?

1322
00:56:41,850 --> 00:56:43,470
Picked on the private.

1323
00:56:43,470 --> 00:56:44,270
Constantly.

1324
00:56:44,270 --> 00:56:46,050
The same sergeant from New York?

1325
00:56:46,050 --> 00:56:47,657
Same sergeant.

1326
00:56:47,657 --> 00:56:48,990
And what did he pick on him for?

1327
00:56:48,990 --> 00:56:52,230
They put him on--

1328
00:56:52,230 --> 00:56:56,220
actually, they had a
mission there at night,

1329
00:56:56,220 --> 00:57:03,720
where they picked about
12 guys to proceed

1330
00:57:03,720 --> 00:57:07,260
to try to find out just
about the lay of the land

1331
00:57:07,260 --> 00:57:11,250
as far as where
the Germans were.

1332
00:57:11,250 --> 00:57:13,660
And the sergeant was
the one that picked

1333
00:57:13,660 --> 00:57:16,530
the 12 men to go with him.

1334
00:57:16,530 --> 00:57:19,680
He went with them.

1335
00:57:19,680 --> 00:57:27,300
And what took place is that this
one particular guy that he was

1336
00:57:27,300 --> 00:57:33,050
abusing and literally
made life miserable for,

1337
00:57:33,050 --> 00:57:36,410
he had the opportunity to
get even with the sergeant.

1338
00:57:36,410 --> 00:57:38,450
You have no idea, though.

1339
00:57:38,450 --> 00:57:39,900
How did he do it?

1340
00:57:39,900 --> 00:57:41,930
Or what kind of
opportunity was this?

1341
00:57:41,930 --> 00:57:43,970
Well, the 12 men spread out.

1342
00:57:43,970 --> 00:57:47,570
You know, in other words,
they weren't near each other.

1343
00:57:47,570 --> 00:57:52,280
That was part of the
group that he picked.

1344
00:57:52,280 --> 00:57:55,340
And this guy shot
him and killed him.

1345
00:57:55,340 --> 00:57:59,600

1346
00:57:59,600 --> 00:58:03,520
I mean, what went on
there, I mean the stories,

1347
00:58:03,520 --> 00:58:05,610

and their own, no [? doubt. ?]

1348

00:58:05,610 --> 00:58:09,260

And did anything happen to him?

1349

00:58:09,260 --> 00:58:11,540

No, but it was a
foolish thing to do,

1350

00:58:11,540 --> 00:58:20,720

because when somebody
starts to fire their rifle,

1351

00:58:20,720 --> 00:58:24,410

they send up a flare to
kind of light up the area,

1352

00:58:24,410 --> 00:58:26,990

so they know what the story is.

1353

00:58:26,990 --> 00:58:30,680

And when you light up the
area, it puts them in jeopardy.

1354

00:58:30,680 --> 00:58:36,420

Because you know that these
Germans, they're not far away.

1355

00:58:36,420 --> 00:58:37,105

And--

1356

00:58:37,105 --> 00:58:38,480

They could find
you, because they

1357

00:58:38,480 --> 00:58:40,225

know your general location.

1358

00:58:40,225 --> 00:58:41,300

Exactly, exactly.

1359

00:58:41,300 --> 00:58:45,520

So that could have put
everybody else in--

1360
00:58:45,520 --> 00:58:48,440
But he was never-- this was a
private who shot the sergeant?

1361
00:58:48,440 --> 00:58:49,640
Yes.

1362
00:58:49,640 --> 00:58:50,330
And--

1363
00:58:50,330 --> 00:58:51,740
Was he ever detected?

1364
00:58:51,740 --> 00:58:57,140
No, naturally nobody
talked about it as far

1365
00:58:57,140 --> 00:59:03,370
as the other 11 or 12 or
whatever it consisted of.

1366
00:59:03,370 --> 00:59:06,560
He must have been pretty bad.

1367
00:59:06,560 --> 00:59:12,800
He was so bad that
that's what he built up--

1368
00:59:12,800 --> 00:59:15,980
animosity to that extent.

1369
00:59:15,980 --> 00:59:19,130
You know, to push somebody
to be willing to do

1370
00:59:19,130 --> 00:59:23,408
that at a time like that,
you can almost imagine what--

1371

00:59:23,408 --> 00:59:24,200
It must have been--

1372
00:59:24,200 --> 00:59:28,040
What the consequences were.

1373
00:59:28,040 --> 00:59:31,580
Tell me a little bit about
the basic training itself.

1374
00:59:31,580 --> 00:59:33,440
What kind of training was it?

1375
00:59:33,440 --> 00:59:36,770
What were the paces that
you were put through?

1376
00:59:36,770 --> 00:59:42,390
Basic training was
very, very difficult.

1377
00:59:42,390 --> 00:59:46,680
We had a general there that
was an advocate of tough.

1378
00:59:46,680 --> 00:59:51,920
He felt that he's doing
you a favor, because he's

1379
00:59:51,920 --> 00:59:56,215
preparing you properly for
when you get into combat.

1380
00:59:56,215 --> 00:59:56,840
You understand?

1381
00:59:56,840 --> 00:59:58,660
You think he was
right in retrospect?

1382
00:59:58,660 --> 01:00:00,130
Probably.

1383

01:00:00,130 --> 01:00:02,240

Probably to a certain extent.

1384

01:00:02,240 --> 01:00:04,640

Only to a certain extent.

1385

01:00:04,640 --> 01:00:07,570

And what is a certain extent?

1386

01:00:07,570 --> 01:00:10,250

They built new barracks there.

1387

01:00:10,250 --> 01:00:11,000

In Mississippi?

1388

01:00:11,000 --> 01:00:13,760

In Mississippi.

1389

01:00:13,760 --> 01:00:20,040

And the barracks were
supposed to be for, you

1390

01:00:20,040 --> 01:00:21,300

would have your meals there.

1391

01:00:21,300 --> 01:00:24,580

1392

01:00:24,580 --> 01:00:28,800

And it so happened that
he wouldn't allow it.

1393

01:00:28,800 --> 01:00:35,340

He wouldn't allow any of us
to have their meals in there.

1394

01:00:35,340 --> 01:00:38,060

And it never stopped raining.

1395

01:00:38,060 --> 01:00:41,495

And he'd have us outside.

1396
01:00:41,495 --> 01:00:43,170
Eating outside?

1397
01:00:43,170 --> 01:00:44,190
Eating outside.

1398
01:00:44,190 --> 01:00:47,560
Because this was
his thought of what

1399
01:00:47,560 --> 01:00:50,510
was gonna make you
a tough soldier.

1400
01:00:50,510 --> 01:00:54,930
I didn't agree with that
kind of stuff, though.

1401
01:00:54,930 --> 01:01:00,180
He feels that you'd
get so mad, it

1402
01:01:00,180 --> 01:01:02,310
would be just perfect
for you if you'd

1403
01:01:02,310 --> 01:01:08,140
be able to confront anything
when you were put to it.

1404
01:01:08,140 --> 01:01:12,240
So tell me about other
aspects of basic training.

1405
01:01:12,240 --> 01:01:15,840
Because they're taken
17, 18, 19-year-old kids

1406
01:01:15,840 --> 01:01:17,520
and turning them into soldiers.

1407

01:01:17,520 --> 01:01:20,410
How did they do that?

1408
01:01:20,410 --> 01:01:23,550
How did they do that?

1409
01:01:23,550 --> 01:01:27,440
I don't know if Bill knows
any of these Jewish things.

1410
01:01:27,440 --> 01:01:30,210
Though I know if he
is Jewish or not.

1411
01:01:30,210 --> 01:01:36,050
But the idea is that
I slept near a guy.

1412
01:01:36,050 --> 01:01:40,620
There was about 12 in the bunk.

1413
01:01:40,620 --> 01:01:48,150
And every morning I put on
certain religious articles.

1414
01:01:48,150 --> 01:01:54,450
And he would watch it,
and I would get up--

1415
01:01:54,450 --> 01:01:56,010
Reveille was 6 o'clock.

1416
01:01:56,010 --> 01:02:01,860
I would get up at 5
o'clock to put this on.

1417
01:02:01,860 --> 01:02:05,790
And the guy that
slept next to me,

1418
01:02:05,790 --> 01:02:12,840
which was from the Deep South,
he got up one morning early.

1419
01:02:12,840 --> 01:02:18,960
And he said, Vince,
he says, are you OK?

1420
01:02:18,960 --> 01:02:23,490
Because part of this was
strapping on your arm.

1421
01:02:23,490 --> 01:02:25,480
What is it, a phylactery or?

1422
01:02:25,480 --> 01:02:27,220
Yes, that's what it was.

1423
01:02:27,220 --> 01:02:27,720
Phylactery.

1424
01:02:27,720 --> 01:02:29,040
Exactly.

1425
01:02:29,040 --> 01:02:32,970
Tell people who will not
know what is a phylactery?

1426
01:02:32,970 --> 01:02:35,030
Well, they called it tfiln.

1427
01:02:35,030 --> 01:02:35,530
Tfiln?

1428
01:02:35,530 --> 01:02:36,450
OK.

1429
01:02:36,450 --> 01:02:41,310
But the idea was that
he thought that I

1430
01:02:41,310 --> 01:02:44,610
was taking my blood pressure.

1431

01:02:44,610 --> 01:02:47,370
And he wanted to be nice.

1432
01:02:47,370 --> 01:02:50,970
And he says, you want
to know something?

1433
01:02:50,970 --> 01:02:53,010
You have all the
grounds of being

1434
01:02:53,010 --> 01:02:57,346
discharged because your
blood pressure is so high.

1435
01:02:57,346 --> 01:02:59,560
Gosh.

1436
01:02:59,560 --> 01:03:03,520
Well, you said earlier your
family was not very religious.

1437
01:03:03,520 --> 01:03:04,530
No.

1438
01:03:04,530 --> 01:03:08,290
But did you nevertheless go to
synagogue on a regular basis?

1439
01:03:08,290 --> 01:03:09,910
Not regular, no.

1440
01:03:09,910 --> 01:03:11,470
Did you become
more religious when

1441
01:03:11,470 --> 01:03:13,390
you were in such circumstances?

1442
01:03:13,390 --> 01:03:16,060
No, no, no.

1443

01:03:16,060 --> 01:03:19,600

In fact, I wasn't
that religious,

1444

01:03:19,600 --> 01:03:22,190

but I got the religion
from my grandfather.

1445

01:03:22,190 --> 01:03:23,630

He was religious.

1446

01:03:23,630 --> 01:03:24,790

OK.

1447

01:03:24,790 --> 01:03:25,470

So.

1448

01:03:25,470 --> 01:03:28,600

But it meant something to
you to put that on every day.

1449

01:03:28,600 --> 01:03:34,750

Yeah, my mother was very much
against me taking it along

1450

01:03:34,750 --> 01:03:35,290

with me.

1451

01:03:35,290 --> 01:03:40,450

She says, I want to tell you,
if you're taken prisoner,

1452

01:03:40,450 --> 01:03:43,000

you'll be killed
immediately by the Germans,

1453

01:03:43,000 --> 01:03:46,990

because they would
know what it is.

1454

01:03:46,990 --> 01:03:48,610

But I didn't listen to her.

1455

01:03:48,610 --> 01:03:53,530

I felt the thought
of it was protection.

1456

01:03:53,530 --> 01:03:54,520

I would get through.

1457

01:03:54,520 --> 01:03:58,720

1458

01:03:58,720 --> 01:04:00,290

And that's what happened.

1459

01:04:00,290 --> 01:04:03,820

But I was a big kick
out of it, the fact

1460

01:04:03,820 --> 01:04:07,900

that he wanted me to bring it
to somebody somebody's attention

1461

01:04:07,900 --> 01:04:09,760

that I was taking my--

1462

01:04:09,760 --> 01:04:10,780

Blood pressure.

1463

01:04:10,780 --> 01:04:15,280

My blood pressure every
morning at 5 o'clock.

1464

01:04:15,280 --> 01:04:20,110

So did you eventually get sent
over with guys that you knew?

1465

01:04:20,110 --> 01:04:24,730

Were you sent over with people
who were your buddies or not?

1466

01:04:24,730 --> 01:04:26,440

Yes, I was sent over.

1467

01:04:26,440 --> 01:04:31,540

They sent us over as one group, the whole division.

1468

01:04:31,540 --> 01:04:34,270

And division means how many?

1469

01:04:34,270 --> 01:04:38,980

Division could be anywheres from 13,000 to 15,000.

1470

01:04:38,980 --> 01:04:39,880

Wow.

1471

01:04:39,880 --> 01:04:42,190

And this was in November 1944?

1472

01:04:42,190 --> 01:04:43,450

This was November.

1473

01:04:43,450 --> 01:04:47,190

I left Camp Shanks.

1474

01:04:47,190 --> 01:04:52,620

In other words, they sent us on the way back to stay.

1475

01:04:52,620 --> 01:04:53,120

Oh, really?

1476

01:04:53,120 --> 01:04:54,130

Yeah.

1477

01:04:54,130 --> 01:04:56,410

So from Mississippi to Camp Shanks.

1478

01:04:56,410 --> 01:04:58,330

Back to Camp Shanks.

1479

01:04:58,330 --> 01:05:01,540

And they gave us the necessary
clothing and everything

1480
01:05:01,540 --> 01:05:04,000
that we needed and
stuff like that.

1481
01:05:04,000 --> 01:05:08,320
And then where were you
taken from Camp Shanks?

1482
01:05:08,320 --> 01:05:16,120
From Camp Shanks it took us
28 days to cross the Atlantic.

1483
01:05:16,120 --> 01:05:16,870
Oh, wow.

1484
01:05:16,870 --> 01:05:18,250
From New York?

1485
01:05:18,250 --> 01:05:19,330
From New York.

1486
01:05:19,330 --> 01:05:19,830
OK.

1487
01:05:19,830 --> 01:05:21,920
Why?

1488
01:05:21,920 --> 01:05:26,050
Because that was the era
when the Atlantic Ocean

1489
01:05:26,050 --> 01:05:31,240
was infested with
German submarines.

1490
01:05:31,240 --> 01:05:36,730
So we spent 28 days
zigzagging to try

1491

01:05:36,730 --> 01:05:41,080
to confuse the Germans there.

1492
01:05:41,080 --> 01:05:48,160
And we landed in Marseilles,
I think 28 days later.

1493
01:05:48,160 --> 01:05:49,420
That's where we were heading.

1494
01:05:49,420 --> 01:05:51,430
So it was like in
early December,

1495
01:05:51,430 --> 01:05:53,450
you landed in Marseilles?

1496
01:05:53,450 --> 01:05:53,950
Yes.

1497
01:05:53,950 --> 01:05:54,700
How did it happen?

1498
01:05:54,700 --> 01:05:59,300
Yes, I think it was the
first week or so whatever.

1499
01:05:59,300 --> 01:06:00,070
OK.

1500
01:06:00,070 --> 01:06:03,140
Well, that's not a bad
place to land in wintertime,

1501
01:06:03,140 --> 01:06:04,500
in Marseilles.

1502
01:06:04,500 --> 01:06:07,210
Oh, what a town that was, boy.

1503
01:06:07,210 --> 01:06:08,050
Wow.

1504
01:06:08,050 --> 01:06:11,660
What kind of impression
did it make on you?

1505
01:06:11,660 --> 01:06:12,160
What kind?

1506
01:06:12,160 --> 01:06:14,290
I don't really remember it all.

1507
01:06:14,290 --> 01:06:18,116
Because the first thing we
were looking for was a bar.

1508
01:06:18,116 --> 01:06:20,410
[laughter]

1509
01:06:20,410 --> 01:06:21,670
And we found one.

1510
01:06:21,670 --> 01:06:26,470
And boy, did we take
advantage of it, though.

1511
01:06:26,470 --> 01:06:27,827
It was great, though.

1512
01:06:27,827 --> 01:06:29,140
Really?

1513
01:06:29,140 --> 01:06:32,200
But from then on,
it was a question

1514
01:06:32,200 --> 01:06:36,026
that they gave you
what you needed.

1515
01:06:36,026 --> 01:06:38,980
You know, rations.

1516

01:06:38,980 --> 01:06:41,350

And that's as far as you went.

1517

01:06:41,350 --> 01:06:42,490

I mean--

1518

01:06:42,490 --> 01:06:44,950

So you were in Marseilles
for a short time,

1519

01:06:44,950 --> 01:06:47,050

and then you were shipped North?

1520

01:06:47,050 --> 01:06:48,195

Then I was shipped North.

1521

01:06:48,195 --> 01:06:49,650

OK, how did you get North?

1522

01:06:49,650 --> 01:06:52,550

Was it by train, or on
foot, or in truck, or how?

1523

01:06:52,550 --> 01:06:53,950

Walk.

1524

01:06:53,950 --> 01:06:54,950

You walked.

1525

01:06:54,950 --> 01:06:55,450

Walked.

1526

01:06:55,450 --> 01:06:57,750

That's what the
infantry does-- walk.

1527

01:06:57,750 --> 01:06:59,110

[LAUGHTER]

1528

01:06:59,110 --> 01:07:03,700

I mean, the first skirmish

that we ended up with

1529
01:07:03,700 --> 01:07:12,640
was February 16th, 1945.

1530
01:07:12,640 --> 01:07:14,440
And this was where?

1531
01:07:14,440 --> 01:07:19,180
This was in-- this
was in Germany.

1532
01:07:19,180 --> 01:07:22,990
That was our first
confrontation into combat.

1533
01:07:22,990 --> 01:07:26,818
OK, so I'm assuming you missed
the Battle of the Bulge.

1534
01:07:26,818 --> 01:07:28,360
No, I was in the
Battle of the Bulge.

1535
01:07:28,360 --> 01:07:30,530
You were in the
Battle of the Bulge?

1536
01:07:30,530 --> 01:07:31,082
Yeah.

1537
01:07:31,082 --> 01:07:32,290
OK.

1538
01:07:32,290 --> 01:07:34,840
So I thought that had
taken place in December.

1539
01:07:34,840 --> 01:07:36,200
I must be wrong, then.

1540
01:07:36,200 --> 01:07:37,178

Yeah.

1541

01:07:37,178 --> 01:07:37,720

I don't know.

1542

01:07:37,720 --> 01:07:40,640

It could have been the
following December, maybe.

1543

01:07:40,640 --> 01:07:41,280

No, no, no.

1544

01:07:41,280 --> 01:07:42,670

I've got my dates wrong.

1545

01:07:42,670 --> 01:07:45,670

No, I was in the
Battle of the Bulge.

1546

01:07:45,670 --> 01:07:50,140

I was awarded a Bronze Star
in the Battle of the Bulge.

1547

01:07:50,140 --> 01:07:53,300

Wow, wow.

1548

01:07:53,300 --> 01:07:55,110

And that was the first one.

1549

01:07:55,110 --> 01:07:59,850

I got two Bronze Stars,
and I got a Purple Heart.

1550

01:07:59,850 --> 01:08:01,600

I was injured in the
Battle of the Bulge.

1551

01:08:01,600 --> 01:08:04,240

1552

01:08:04,240 --> 01:08:06,880

OK, let's start with

the first skirmish.

1553

01:08:06,880 --> 01:08:10,420

And then I'd like to
hear about those things

1554

01:08:10,420 --> 01:08:13,500

that you just told
me in more detail.

1555

01:08:13,500 --> 01:08:14,050

In more de--

1556

01:08:14,050 --> 01:08:17,700

The first skirmish
was February 16, 1945.

1557

01:08:17,700 --> 01:08:18,490

Right.

1558

01:08:18,490 --> 01:08:20,830

And what part of
Germany was that?

1559

01:08:20,830 --> 01:08:22,370

Bliesbrucken.

1560

01:08:22,370 --> 01:08:23,050

Bliesbrucken.

1561

01:08:23,050 --> 01:08:25,410

That was the name
of it, Bliesbrucken.

1562

01:08:25,410 --> 01:08:25,910

OK.

1563

01:08:25,910 --> 01:08:30,470

That was the first that
our particular unit

1564

01:08:30,470 --> 01:08:32,979

was confronted with.

1565

01:08:32,979 --> 01:08:34,000

OK.

1566

01:08:34,000 --> 01:08:40,779

And that was a tough
situation, because they

1567

01:08:40,779 --> 01:08:43,779

knew we were coming.

1568

01:08:43,779 --> 01:08:49,930

And we lost about half
of the outfit there.

1569

01:08:49,930 --> 01:08:52,630

And what did we lose them with?

1570

01:08:52,630 --> 01:08:55,569

The Germans knew
that we were coming,

1571

01:08:55,569 --> 01:08:58,074

and they mined the area.

1572

01:08:58,074 --> 01:09:00,490

You know about mining?

1573

01:09:00,490 --> 01:09:03,670

Tell me about it.

1574

01:09:03,670 --> 01:09:05,500

The Germans were
very good at that.

1575

01:09:05,500 --> 01:09:10,850

They would place
mines in the ground.

1576

01:09:10,850 --> 01:09:14,109

And if you stepped

on it, it would take

1577

01:09:14,109 --> 01:09:16,810

this part of your foot off.

1578

01:09:16,810 --> 01:09:21,740

And that's where most of
the casualties came from.

1579

01:09:21,740 --> 01:09:26,779

Because we didn't know, I mean,
what was gonna take place.

1580

01:09:26,779 --> 01:09:28,520

And they knew.

1581

01:09:28,520 --> 01:09:33,470

They knew everything we were
doing, almost, the Germans.

1582

01:09:33,470 --> 01:09:37,050

And we lost quite a few of them.

1583

01:09:37,050 --> 01:09:43,310

This was the first situation
where we really hit combat.

1584

01:09:43,310 --> 01:09:45,830

You never get used to
it, but after a while you

1585

01:09:45,830 --> 01:09:47,390

get a little more--

1586

01:09:47,390 --> 01:09:50,529

you know, you understand
what the heck is going on.

1587

01:09:50,529 --> 01:09:52,450

Well, this was the
dead of winter.

1588

01:09:52,450 --> 01:09:53,224
Yes.

1589
01:09:53,224 --> 01:09:54,710
OK.

1590
01:09:54,710 --> 01:09:59,480
And Bliesbrucken,
geographically, what part

1591
01:09:59,480 --> 01:10:01,920
of Germany was that in?

1592
01:10:01,920 --> 01:10:06,320
It must have been right
on the border with France.

1593
01:10:06,320 --> 01:10:08,840
Right, as soon as you
leave France, you go.

1594
01:10:08,840 --> 01:10:10,010
That's one of the--

1595
01:10:10,010 --> 01:10:10,870
First places.

1596
01:10:10,870 --> 01:10:12,620
One of the first places
that you would go.

1597
01:10:12,620 --> 01:10:14,450
Did you take play Bliesbrucken?

1598
01:10:14,450 --> 01:10:15,830
Take what?

1599
01:10:15,830 --> 01:10:19,280
Did you repel the Germans?

1600
01:10:19,280 --> 01:10:23,090
Or did they-- were the Germans

repelled, or did you succeed?

1601
01:10:23,090 --> 01:10:24,650
Yeah, we got through.

1602
01:10:24,650 --> 01:10:27,530
We got through, because
we had reinforcements

1603
01:10:27,530 --> 01:10:30,470
that came through.

1604
01:10:30,470 --> 01:10:33,110
But the thing that
I remember the most

1605
01:10:33,110 --> 01:10:40,460
is that the Germans were dug
in, knowing that we're coming.

1606
01:10:40,460 --> 01:10:41,748
Was that a surprise?

1607
01:10:41,748 --> 01:10:43,040
Or did you know that they knew?

1608
01:10:43,040 --> 01:10:45,770
We did not know that they knew.

1609
01:10:45,770 --> 01:10:48,470
But they were prepared.

1610
01:10:48,470 --> 01:10:54,320
And when we got close enough
and we saw who we were fighting,

1611
01:10:54,320 --> 01:10:56,660
that was a complete surprise.

1612
01:10:56,660 --> 01:11:00,790
They couldn't have been any
more than 14 or 15 years old.

1613
01:11:00,790 --> 01:11:01,810
Oh, good God.

1614
01:11:01,810 --> 01:11:04,295
Yeah, that's how
young they were.

1615
01:11:04,295 --> 01:11:05,690
Oh, good God.

1616
01:11:05,690 --> 01:11:07,910
And I remember vividly--

1617
01:11:07,910 --> 01:11:14,150
I remember this one situation
that they were in foxholes.

1618
01:11:14,150 --> 01:11:17,180
So when I got
there, he came out,

1619
01:11:17,180 --> 01:11:20,420
this one guy came
out of the foxhole.

1620
01:11:20,420 --> 01:11:24,350
And when I saw how young he
was, I couldn't believe it.

1621
01:11:24,350 --> 01:11:26,120
I couldn't believe it.

1622
01:11:26,120 --> 01:11:29,930
And when I got close
to him, he got so close

1623
01:11:29,930 --> 01:11:32,840
that he spit in my face.

1624
01:11:32,840 --> 01:11:35,310
That's how arrogant they were.

1625
01:11:35,310 --> 01:11:36,180
Wow.

1626
01:11:36,180 --> 01:11:37,561
If you can picture that.

1627
01:11:37,561 --> 01:11:41,030

1628
01:11:41,030 --> 01:11:44,750
They were-- that
young element was--

1629
01:11:44,750 --> 01:11:47,980
the older element,
believe it or not,

1630
01:11:47,980 --> 01:11:50,330
were looking to get
out of the war already.

1631
01:11:50,330 --> 01:11:52,010
They were in the war that long.

1632
01:11:52,010 --> 01:11:55,260

1633
01:11:55,260 --> 01:11:56,550
But--

1634
01:11:56,550 --> 01:11:58,170
What would you put that down to?

1635
01:11:58,170 --> 01:12:01,860
Why were the young
ones like that?

1636
01:12:01,860 --> 01:12:04,890
Indoctrination.

1637

01:12:04,890 --> 01:12:11,970
Indoctrinated by the
German hierarchy.

1638
01:12:11,970 --> 01:12:15,930
They were vicious
compared to the--

1639
01:12:15,930 --> 01:12:19,050
I mean, we had stuff
with the older ones

1640
01:12:19,050 --> 01:12:23,310
that absolutely
would have loved to--

1641
01:12:23,310 --> 01:12:26,130
they were in it already
about five, six years.

1642
01:12:26,130 --> 01:12:32,040
They couldn't wait to
get out of it already.

1643
01:12:32,040 --> 01:12:35,670
Was this the first time that
you came across Germans,

1644
01:12:35,670 --> 01:12:37,330
German soldiers, the enemy?

1645
01:12:37,330 --> 01:12:40,620
Bliesbrucken was the first time.

1646
01:12:40,620 --> 01:12:43,920
And that was when this young
kid comes out of the foxhole?

1647
01:12:43,920 --> 01:12:44,710
Yes, yeah.

1648
01:12:44,710 --> 01:12:45,420
OK.

1649
01:12:45,420 --> 01:12:50,730
That was the first skirmish
that we ran into, yeah.

1650
01:12:50,730 --> 01:12:53,160
Then what happened?

1651
01:12:53,160 --> 01:12:54,450
With you?

1652
01:12:54,450 --> 01:12:57,360
Then with me, it was a question.

1653
01:12:57,360 --> 01:13:00,240
We approached the Rhine River.

1654
01:13:00,240 --> 01:13:03,315
I mean, I walked.

1655
01:13:03,315 --> 01:13:04,770
I mean, I can't tell you.

1656
01:13:04,770 --> 01:13:07,050
And you know what a mortar is.

1657
01:13:07,050 --> 01:13:12,630
A mortar has three
parts that you carry.

1658
01:13:12,630 --> 01:13:14,070
You were carrying a mortar?

1659
01:13:14,070 --> 01:13:18,950
Well, each one would try to
help the other one by carrying

1660
01:13:18,950 --> 01:13:22,050
it a certain distance.

1661
01:13:22,050 --> 01:13:25,470

I was an observer,
a mortar observer.

1662
01:13:25,470 --> 01:13:28,560
The mortar observer
is the one that

1663
01:13:28,560 --> 01:13:34,770
goes up front, so that
he can get on his phone

1664
01:13:34,770 --> 01:13:41,910
and give the distance to the
one that's back with the mortar

1665
01:13:41,910 --> 01:13:43,380
itself, you know?

1666
01:13:43,380 --> 01:13:44,340
OK.

1667
01:13:44,340 --> 01:13:46,110
They used to call
them stovepipes.

1668
01:13:46,110 --> 01:13:48,470
You know, you drop
the shell, and you

1669
01:13:48,470 --> 01:13:53,100
would have to figure out about
how many yards or whatever it

1670
01:13:53,100 --> 01:13:54,040
is.

1671
01:13:54,040 --> 01:13:57,815
That doesn't sound like
a very safe occupation.

1672
01:13:57,815 --> 01:13:58,770
No.

1673

01:13:58,770 --> 01:14:00,210

[LAUGHTER]

1674

01:14:00,210 --> 01:14:01,750

You're very bright!

1675

01:14:01,750 --> 01:14:03,900

Thank you!

1676

01:14:03,900 --> 01:14:06,990

It wasn't a very
safe occupation.

1677

01:14:06,990 --> 01:14:12,165

But I ended up as
a staff sergeant.

1678

01:14:12,165 --> 01:14:15,300

1679

01:14:15,300 --> 01:14:16,500

And what does that mean?

1680

01:14:16,500 --> 01:14:18,900

You no longer have to be out
front there with the phone

1681

01:14:18,900 --> 01:14:19,560

phoning back?

1682

01:14:19,560 --> 01:14:21,570

No, I was up front anyway.

1683

01:14:21,570 --> 01:14:23,520

I was up front.

1684

01:14:23,520 --> 01:14:25,360

But that that was after a while.

1685

01:14:25,360 --> 01:14:28,860

You know, after a while.

1686
01:14:28,860 --> 01:14:31,150
I think the biggest
thing that we

1687
01:14:31,150 --> 01:14:35,760
were so interested in
becoming, from a private

1688
01:14:35,760 --> 01:14:38,920
up the ladder to
a staff sergeant,

1689
01:14:38,920 --> 01:14:43,380
was see the pay increase.

1690
01:14:43,380 --> 01:14:47,360
It went from \$21 a
month to \$28 a month.

1691
01:14:47,360 --> 01:14:51,720

1692
01:14:51,720 --> 01:14:53,250
25% more!

1693
01:14:53,250 --> 01:14:55,220
That was a big increase.

1694
01:14:55,220 --> 01:14:58,070
Right, right.

1695
01:14:58,070 --> 01:15:00,600
If I got my math right.

1696
01:15:00,600 --> 01:15:02,340
So what I wanted to
ask you is, did you

1697
01:15:02,340 --> 01:15:05,850
become a sergeant
between Bleikirchen

1698
01:15:05,850 --> 01:15:07,830
and the other units?

1699
01:15:07,830 --> 01:15:10,380
When were you promoted?

1700
01:15:10,380 --> 01:15:13,440
When was I promoted?

1701
01:15:13,440 --> 01:15:18,570
I was promoted a
field situation.

1702
01:15:18,570 --> 01:15:22,500
That was coming out of
Heidelberg, Germany.

1703
01:15:22,500 --> 01:15:26,810
I led this group.

1704
01:15:26,810 --> 01:15:33,900
And we were just ready to
cross the Danube River.

1705
01:15:33,900 --> 01:15:35,880
And that was a
session in itself.

1706
01:15:35,880 --> 01:15:38,210
I mean, they knew.

1707
01:15:38,210 --> 01:15:41,010
It was remarkable
how they knew so much

1708
01:15:41,010 --> 01:15:42,810
about what we were gonna do.

1709
01:15:42,810 --> 01:15:45,450
Meaning the Germans.

1710

01:15:45,450 --> 01:15:53,650

We had to cross the Danube River
to continue to move forward.

1711

01:15:53,650 --> 01:15:56,710

And I didn't know how far.

1712

01:15:56,710 --> 01:15:58,950

I mean, we didn't know
how deep the water

1713

01:15:58,950 --> 01:16:01,380

is and stuff like that.

1714

01:16:01,380 --> 01:16:08,720

But Heidelberg was a
place where the Germans--

1715

01:16:08,720 --> 01:16:09,990

It was wonderful.

1716

01:16:09,990 --> 01:16:15,450

The town was
top-of-the-line far as that.

1717

01:16:15,450 --> 01:16:20,640

And we stopped in Heidelberg.

1718

01:16:20,640 --> 01:16:27,810

And they would had their
little boats there,

1719

01:16:27,810 --> 01:16:30,090

the residents that lived there.

1720

01:16:30,090 --> 01:16:33,400

It was mostly professional
people, doctors and attorneys.

1721

01:16:33,400 --> 01:16:34,280

There's a university.

1722

01:16:34,280 --> 01:16:36,280

It's a famous university town.

1723

01:16:36,280 --> 01:16:36,892

Yeah.

1724

01:16:36,892 --> 01:16:38,220

OK.

1725

01:16:38,220 --> 01:16:42,540

So the idea is that
some of the guys

1726

01:16:42,540 --> 01:16:45,570

got into those little boats.

1727

01:16:45,570 --> 01:16:48,570

I wasn't one of
them, but I made sure

1728

01:16:48,570 --> 01:16:52,320

that the guys I was
with at least got going.

1729

01:16:52,320 --> 01:16:55,240

And they knew we were coming.

1730

01:16:55,240 --> 01:17:01,900

So as soon as we pushed off
and we ended up almost close

1731

01:17:01,900 --> 01:17:04,750

to the middle of
the Danube, they

1732

01:17:04,750 --> 01:17:07,204

opened up with artillery fire.

1733

01:17:07,204 --> 01:17:08,860

Oh, my.

1734

01:17:08,860 --> 01:17:10,540
Helpless.

1735
01:17:10,540 --> 01:17:15,640
Where are you gonna go from
the middle of the Danube River?

1736
01:17:15,640 --> 01:17:20,950
But the only thing that you were
able to do is try your best.

1737
01:17:20,950 --> 01:17:25,000
You know, so much has
to do with luck, too.

1738
01:17:25,000 --> 01:17:31,980
In fact, when we
got into Heidelberg,

1739
01:17:31,980 --> 01:17:36,540
we got into Heidelberg at
about 6 o'clock in the morning.

1740
01:17:36,540 --> 01:17:39,780
And this is walking
from who knows how far.

1741
01:17:39,780 --> 01:17:42,090
Was Heidelberg
after Bleikirchen?

1742
01:17:42,090 --> 01:17:42,750
After what?

1743
01:17:42,750 --> 01:17:43,900
After the first--

1744
01:17:43,900 --> 01:17:44,400
Oh, yes.

1745
01:17:44,400 --> 01:17:45,520
Quite a bit.

1746
01:17:45,520 --> 01:17:46,020
OK.

1747
01:17:46,020 --> 01:17:46,836
Quite a bit.

1748
01:17:46,836 --> 01:17:49,380
All right.

1749
01:17:49,380 --> 01:17:55,080
And as we moved up,
we noticed that there

1750
01:17:55,080 --> 01:18:00,090
was a tavern on the corner.

1751
01:18:00,090 --> 01:18:02,550
And that always frightened
us, because we didn't

1752
01:18:02,550 --> 01:18:06,780
know who was in the tavern.

1753
01:18:06,780 --> 01:18:08,740
And it had curtains.

1754
01:18:08,740 --> 01:18:11,520
You know, these kind of curtains
that you certainly couldn't

1755
01:18:11,520 --> 01:18:14,850
see what was doing there.

1756
01:18:14,850 --> 01:18:17,400
But that's the only way
that we can get through

1757
01:18:17,400 --> 01:18:22,060
is to check to see
what's happening there.

1758

01:18:22,060 --> 01:18:31,350
And we approached the tavern,
and sent a couple along

1759
01:18:31,350 --> 01:18:35,610
to try to peek through the
curtain that was there.

1760
01:18:35,610 --> 01:18:40,870
And we saw a big round table
in the middle of the room.

1761
01:18:40,870 --> 01:18:46,260
And there must have been
about six or eight Germans

1762
01:18:46,260 --> 01:18:48,990
around the table,
sitting around the table.

1763
01:18:48,990 --> 01:18:50,280
Oh, just sitting around there.

1764
01:18:50,280 --> 01:18:51,660
Well, they were there.

1765
01:18:51,660 --> 01:18:53,430
We didn't know
whether they had--

1766
01:18:53,430 --> 01:18:55,560
what their intentions
were or anything.

1767
01:18:55,560 --> 01:18:56,610
Soldiers or civilians?

1768
01:18:56,610 --> 01:18:57,150
Soldiers.

1769
01:18:57,150 --> 01:18:57,690
Soldiers?

1770

01:18:57,690 --> 01:18:59,380

In uniform, the whole works.

1771

01:18:59,380 --> 01:18:59,880

Oh, OK.

1772

01:18:59,880 --> 01:19:03,570

With their rifles alongside
of them and all that stuff.

1773

01:19:03,570 --> 01:19:05,670

We didn't know.

1774

01:19:05,670 --> 01:19:09,360

So what we did is, we
sent some around the back,

1775

01:19:09,360 --> 01:19:10,440

and we sent some--

1776

01:19:10,440 --> 01:19:14,250

we had to know, because there
was no way of proceeding

1777

01:19:14,250 --> 01:19:17,040

without knowing.

1778

01:19:17,040 --> 01:19:22,170

And when we finally got to
the point where, by golly,

1779

01:19:22,170 --> 01:19:24,510

you got to make a move,
you either go in there,

1780

01:19:24,510 --> 01:19:29,340

or you're not gonna go
back, when they saw us,

1781

01:19:29,340 --> 01:19:34,230

they stood up from the table,
and they put their hands up.

1782
01:19:34,230 --> 01:19:39,600
They were waiting for us, for
the American soldiers to come,

1783
01:19:39,600 --> 01:19:41,040
so that they could--

1784
01:19:41,040 --> 01:19:41,875
Surrender.

1785
01:19:41,875 --> 01:19:42,750
They could surrender.

1786
01:19:42,750 --> 01:19:47,040
They loved to surrender
to the Americans.

1787
01:19:47,040 --> 01:19:47,820
Well, of course.

1788
01:19:47,820 --> 01:19:49,530
Because you weren't
the Russians.

1789
01:19:49,530 --> 01:19:50,130
That's right.

1790
01:19:50,130 --> 01:19:53,520
They feared the Russians
more than anybody else.

1791
01:19:53,520 --> 01:19:56,430

1792
01:19:56,430 --> 01:19:58,110
Boy, that was murder.

1793
01:19:58,110 --> 01:20:01,080
Especially after
Stalingrad, when they

1794

01:20:01,080 --> 01:20:04,500
went through that situation.

1795

01:20:04,500 --> 01:20:09,910
Listen, I spent four
years in that situation.

1796

01:20:09,910 --> 01:20:14,910
So when you went over in '44,
you were there until '48?

1797

01:20:14,910 --> 01:20:15,850
'7.

1798

01:20:15,850 --> 01:20:16,640
'47.

1799

01:20:16,640 --> 01:20:18,420
OK.

1800

01:20:18,420 --> 01:20:20,330
But I want to backtrack.

1801

01:20:20,330 --> 01:20:23,580
Was Heidelberg after
Battle of the Bulge?

1802

01:20:23,580 --> 01:20:25,476
Heidelberg was before.

1803

01:20:25,476 --> 01:20:26,620
Before Battle of the Bulge?

1804

01:20:26,620 --> 01:20:27,840
Before, yeah.

1805

01:20:27,840 --> 01:20:28,740
OK.

1806

01:20:28,740 --> 01:20:32,790
The Battle of the Bulge already

was almost towards the end.

1807

01:20:32,790 --> 01:20:39,870

This was the last thrust that
the Germans put to get through,

1808

01:20:39,870 --> 01:20:42,030

to annihilate.

1809

01:20:42,030 --> 01:20:44,278

First of all, that was
in the Black Forest.

1810

01:20:44,278 --> 01:20:45,570

I don't know if you ever heard.

1811

01:20:45,570 --> 01:20:46,640

The Black forest--

1812

01:20:46,640 --> 01:20:48,990

Oh, I thought it was in Belgium.

1813

01:20:48,990 --> 01:20:51,360

The Battle of the
Bulge was in Belgium.

1814

01:20:51,360 --> 01:20:53,370

Well, no.

1815

01:20:53,370 --> 01:20:54,410

I don't think it was.

1816

01:20:54,410 --> 01:20:56,000

If it was, maybe part of it.

1817

01:20:56,000 --> 01:20:57,383

It was a big--

1818

01:20:57,383 --> 01:20:58,800

OK, so it was in
the Black Forest.

1819

01:20:58,800 --> 01:20:59,450

All right.

1820

01:20:59,450 --> 01:21:05,640

It was a big forest, but
you never saw daylight.

1821

01:21:05,640 --> 01:21:08,250

They refer to it
as the Black Forest

1822

01:21:08,250 --> 01:21:14,810

because the trees were so thick,
and it never stopped snowing.

1823

01:21:14,810 --> 01:21:17,580

1824

01:21:17,580 --> 01:21:23,760

We couldn't use-- the Americans
couldn't use their Air Force.

1825

01:21:23,760 --> 01:21:25,560

And the Germans knew
that, and that's

1826

01:21:25,560 --> 01:21:30,390

why they picked that
particular time,

1827

01:21:30,390 --> 01:21:33,090

knowing that there's a better
chance of their getting

1828

01:21:33,090 --> 01:21:33,690

through.

1829

01:21:33,690 --> 01:21:36,270

They put everything
that they had--

1830

01:21:36,270 --> 01:21:38,880

tanks and everything,
the Germans--

1831
01:21:38,880 --> 01:21:41,110
to get through.

1832
01:21:41,110 --> 01:21:45,270
And it so happens
that the only reason

1833
01:21:45,270 --> 01:21:49,410
that they didn't get through
is because they ran out

1834
01:21:49,410 --> 01:21:53,820
of oil, gas.

1835
01:21:53,820 --> 01:21:57,480
If they had enough gas, they
would have probably annihilated

1836
01:21:57,480 --> 01:21:59,160
us.

1837
01:21:59,160 --> 01:22:00,630
From something like that.

1838
01:22:00,630 --> 01:22:01,920
Yeah.

1839
01:22:01,920 --> 01:22:04,050
So tell me, what
was your experience?

1840
01:22:04,050 --> 01:22:06,240
What happened to you personally?

1841
01:22:06,240 --> 01:22:07,282
This is after Heidelberg.

1842
01:22:07,282 --> 01:22:07,865
What happened?

1843
01:22:07,865 --> 01:22:09,600
Well, what happened
to me personally

1844
01:22:09,600 --> 01:22:15,660
was that I was in the
Battle of the Bulge,

1845
01:22:15,660 --> 01:22:18,620
I would say probably
for about three weeks.

1846
01:22:18,620 --> 01:22:21,845
And this is what month?

1847
01:22:21,845 --> 01:22:24,710
What month?

1848
01:22:24,710 --> 01:22:27,630
That's hard thinking,
exactly what month.

1849
01:22:27,630 --> 01:22:33,570
I know that it was so thick
that the Germans figured out

1850
01:22:33,570 --> 01:22:38,220
that if they threw
artillery fire in there,

1851
01:22:38,220 --> 01:22:43,950
they would get quite a toll,
because they would explode,

1852
01:22:43,950 --> 01:22:48,612
and that's where I got
hit with artillery fire.

1853
01:22:48,612 --> 01:22:49,520
OK.

1854

01:22:49,520 --> 01:22:53,610
And they wanted me to--

1855
01:22:53,610 --> 01:22:57,750
the medics came, and
they wanted me to--

1856
01:22:57,750 --> 01:23:00,310
take me to the hospital.

1857
01:23:00,310 --> 01:23:02,010
I didn't want to
go to the hospital,

1858
01:23:02,010 --> 01:23:05,550
because if I went
to the hospital,

1859
01:23:05,550 --> 01:23:08,040
I wouldn't be with
my people anymore.

1860
01:23:08,040 --> 01:23:10,860
They would send them
somewheres else.

1861
01:23:10,860 --> 01:23:13,000
That means I'd
have to start in--

1862
01:23:13,000 --> 01:23:14,100
With somebody else.

1863
01:23:14,100 --> 01:23:18,390
New acquaintances, and
new this, and new that.

1864
01:23:18,390 --> 01:23:23,910
So I just stay begged
off and I camouflaged it.

1865
01:23:23,910 --> 01:23:26,160
Where were you injured?

1866
01:23:26,160 --> 01:23:30,790
I was injured in my right
leg, and in my shoulder,

1867
01:23:30,790 --> 01:23:33,470
and in the right--

1868
01:23:33,470 --> 01:23:36,036
shrapnel, all with shrapnel.

1869
01:23:36,036 --> 01:23:37,720
You know what shrapnel is?

1870
01:23:37,720 --> 01:23:38,220
Tell me.

1871
01:23:38,220 --> 01:23:38,510
Tell me.

1872
01:23:38,510 --> 01:23:39,060
Huh?

1873
01:23:39,060 --> 01:23:40,590
Tell me.

1874
01:23:40,590 --> 01:23:47,910
Shrapnel is what the
artillery shells, that's

1875
01:23:47,910 --> 01:23:49,710
what they're full of.

1876
01:23:49,710 --> 01:23:53,640
That's what causes all the
damage, is the shrapnel.

1877
01:23:53,640 --> 01:23:54,660
Is it metal bits?

1878
01:23:54,660 --> 01:23:56,250

Yes.

1879

01:23:56,250 --> 01:23:58,050

I forgot that I'm
talking to somebody

1880

01:23:58,050 --> 01:24:00,510

who wasn't in the service.

1881

01:24:00,510 --> 01:24:01,618

Well, yeah.

1882

01:24:01,618 --> 01:24:02,160

That's right.

1883

01:24:02,160 --> 01:24:04,690

I mean, it's self-evident
to other people,

1884

01:24:04,690 --> 01:24:08,640

but we also need definitions.

1885

01:24:08,640 --> 01:24:10,560

I mean, some people won't know.

1886

01:24:10,560 --> 01:24:12,690

I didn't know what a
mortar sergeant was.

1887

01:24:12,690 --> 01:24:17,730

No, you didn't know
what a mortar--

1888

01:24:17,730 --> 01:24:19,590

I didn't know what a
mortar sergeant was.

1889

01:24:19,590 --> 01:24:20,450

Yes.

1890

01:24:20,450 --> 01:24:23,730

And yeah.

1891
01:24:23,730 --> 01:24:26,120
so yes, you're kind of
explaining the ABCs.

1892
01:24:26,120 --> 01:24:27,690
Yeah, how would you know?

1893
01:24:27,690 --> 01:24:29,050
How would you know, though?

1894
01:24:29,050 --> 01:24:29,550
So--

1895
01:24:29,550 --> 01:24:32,060
But I missed certain
things along the way.

1896
01:24:32,060 --> 01:24:35,660
I mean, you know, across the
Rhine was an episode in it

1897
01:24:35,660 --> 01:24:36,930
itself.

1898
01:24:36,930 --> 01:24:40,560
I don't know if you ever
heard, but the Maginot Line

1899
01:24:40,560 --> 01:24:43,530
was a very famous
line at that time.

1900
01:24:43,530 --> 01:24:44,370
Mm-hmm.

1901
01:24:44,370 --> 01:24:49,140
The Germans spent a
fortune in money and time

1902
01:24:49,140 --> 01:24:52,710
to build that particular line.

1903
01:24:52,710 --> 01:24:54,960
It was a defensive line.

1904
01:24:54,960 --> 01:25:00,810
They knew that the Americans,
when they landed in Marseilles,

1905
01:25:00,810 --> 01:25:03,970
would be coming up in that area.

1906
01:25:03,970 --> 01:25:09,150
So this was protection for them.

1907
01:25:09,150 --> 01:25:12,420
But you have no
idea what this line

1908
01:25:12,420 --> 01:25:15,150
looked like when you got--
we got through it, you see.

1909
01:25:15,150 --> 01:25:16,560
We got into it.

1910
01:25:16,560 --> 01:25:20,100
What did the line look like?

1911
01:25:20,100 --> 01:25:22,380
It was like a hotel.

1912
01:25:22,380 --> 01:25:25,950
That's how they built
that particular line.

1913
01:25:25,950 --> 01:25:29,190
It was like a hotel.

1914
01:25:29,190 --> 01:25:32,460
They had all the necessary--

1915

01:25:32,460 --> 01:25:34,590
I don't know what
to call it, but they

1916
01:25:34,590 --> 01:25:39,495
were doing it for years to build
this particular Maginot line--

1917
01:25:39,495 --> 01:25:40,260
Maginot Line.

1918
01:25:40,260 --> 01:25:42,420
That's what they called it.

1919
01:25:42,420 --> 01:25:46,410
But they made one foolish,
very foolish mistake

1920
01:25:46,410 --> 01:25:49,560
that we couldn't believe
that the Germans would

1921
01:25:49,560 --> 01:25:51,413
make a mistake like that.

1922
01:25:51,413 --> 01:25:52,260
What was that?

1923
01:25:52,260 --> 01:25:57,100
The Maginot Line was a fortress.

1924
01:25:57,100 --> 01:26:00,190
But they didn't figure you
can get around the fortress.

1925
01:26:00,190 --> 01:26:03,730
You don't have to
go right through it.

1926
01:26:03,730 --> 01:26:05,350
So it's a physical building?

1927

01:26:05,350 --> 01:26:06,690
Yeah.

1928
01:26:06,690 --> 01:26:13,890
So we never bothered
to go through the line.

1929
01:26:13,890 --> 01:26:19,690
We did after they
started to run North.

1930
01:26:19,690 --> 01:26:22,110
Then that's when we got a
chance to get down and take

1931
01:26:22,110 --> 01:26:23,500
a look at what it looked like.

1932
01:26:23,500 --> 01:26:25,650
We couldn't believe
what the hell--

1933
01:26:25,650 --> 01:26:28,820
that was really a fortress
in every sense of the word,

1934
01:26:28,820 --> 01:26:29,940
though.

1935
01:26:29,940 --> 01:26:34,740
All this time, from
Marseilles onwards--

1936
01:26:34,740 --> 01:26:36,330
again, forgive me.

1937
01:26:36,330 --> 01:26:38,410
this is gonna be
naive question--

1938
01:26:38,410 --> 01:26:38,910
Go ahead.

1939

01:26:38,910 --> 01:26:40,430

You guys get any news?

1940

01:26:40,430 --> 01:26:44,010

Did you get any newspapers,
like the army paper?

1941

01:26:44,010 --> 01:26:45,630

Yes, but not frequently.

1942

01:26:45,630 --> 01:26:48,390

The army paper, they
made it their business

1943

01:26:48,390 --> 01:26:51,330

to distribute that.

1944

01:26:51,330 --> 01:26:53,590

We would get that.

1945

01:26:53,590 --> 01:26:56,290

But as far as the
news getting to you,

1946

01:26:56,290 --> 01:26:59,530

it was very, very
difficult then.

1947

01:26:59,530 --> 01:27:00,630

I mean, I would--

1948

01:27:00,630 --> 01:27:04,070

all of a sudden, I would
get a batch of mail

1949

01:27:04,070 --> 01:27:08,564

that thick that was written
maybe about three months ago.

1950

01:27:08,564 --> 01:27:09,330

OK.

1951

01:27:09,330 --> 01:27:10,950

Stuff like that.

1952

01:27:10,950 --> 01:27:14,460

Now, in the news
was there anything

1953

01:27:14,460 --> 01:27:16,110

that you learned
that you didn't know

1954

01:27:16,110 --> 01:27:19,170

before about what was going
on or what had gone on

1955

01:27:19,170 --> 01:27:22,530

with the Jews in Europe?

1956

01:27:22,530 --> 01:27:24,170

Yes, along the way.

1957

01:27:24,170 --> 01:27:28,390

Not a lot, but you know,
you're asking a question

1958

01:27:28,390 --> 01:27:32,710

where they questioned a
lot of Jewish soldiers

1959

01:27:32,710 --> 01:27:37,390

or not necessarily Jewish,
any kind of soldier.

1960

01:27:37,390 --> 01:27:39,430

I mean, I don't want to
push in front of you,

1961

01:27:39,430 --> 01:27:43,480

but they didn't know what
a-- what do you call it--

1962

01:27:43,480 --> 01:27:45,250

concentration camp was.

1963

01:27:45,250 --> 01:27:47,470

They never saw one.

1964

01:27:47,470 --> 01:27:52,090

They didn't know anything
about a concentration camp.

1965

01:27:52,090 --> 01:27:55,000

And they didn't know
what's doing inside.

1966

01:27:55,000 --> 01:27:56,050

What about you?

1967

01:27:56,050 --> 01:27:57,310

Did you have some idea?

1968

01:27:57,310 --> 01:27:59,890

1969

01:27:59,890 --> 01:28:03,400

Along the way, as
we were proceeding,

1970

01:28:03,400 --> 01:28:05,890

I came across Dachau.

1971

01:28:05,890 --> 01:28:07,100

You ever hear of Dachau?

1972

01:28:07,100 --> 01:28:08,060

Oh, yeah.

1973

01:28:08,060 --> 01:28:09,360

OK.

1974

01:28:09,360 --> 01:28:15,100

Dachau had a lot
of satellite camps.

1975

01:28:15,100 --> 01:28:16,540

A lot of people never knew that.

1976

01:28:16,540 --> 01:28:19,120

All they knew was Dachau.

1977

01:28:19,120 --> 01:28:26,380

But as we were moving

North, I had news

1978

01:28:26,380 --> 01:28:30,870

that I knew already what

a concentration camp was.

1979

01:28:30,870 --> 01:28:34,150

How did you know and

the others didn't?

1980

01:28:34,150 --> 01:28:36,690

Mail.

1981

01:28:36,690 --> 01:28:37,390

Mail from home.

1982

01:28:37,390 --> 01:28:38,765

So your family

would write to you

1983

01:28:38,765 --> 01:28:40,720

and say that they heard

about these things?

1984

01:28:40,720 --> 01:28:42,550

Yes, they would question it.

1985

01:28:42,550 --> 01:28:44,980

Have I seen it, and

stuff like that?

1986

01:28:44,980 --> 01:28:50,550

My father was always

interesting in that.

1987
01:28:50,550 --> 01:28:56,890
So this one day, we're
moving up, and I take a look,

1988
01:28:56,890 --> 01:29:00,550
and that's a concentration camp.

1989
01:29:00,550 --> 01:29:01,880
It was off the road.

1990
01:29:01,880 --> 01:29:05,710
It was a dirt road, and
this was all off the road.

1991
01:29:05,710 --> 01:29:07,960
Did you go closer?

1992
01:29:07,960 --> 01:29:09,400
I went inside.

1993
01:29:09,400 --> 01:29:15,610
I was the first American soldier
that entered the Landsberg

1994
01:29:15,610 --> 01:29:22,467
Concentration Camp in 1945.

1995
01:29:22,467 --> 01:29:23,050
When was this?

1996
01:29:23,050 --> 01:29:25,570
What month was it?

1997
01:29:25,570 --> 01:29:28,030
What month was this?

1998
01:29:28,030 --> 01:29:31,600
I don't remember exactly
what month it was, no.

1999

01:29:31,600 --> 01:29:33,970
I don't usually want to
lead, but I will say,

2000
01:29:33,970 --> 01:29:39,190
I would think it must have been
sometime in April, April '45.

2001
01:29:39,190 --> 01:29:40,240
Maybe--

2002
01:29:40,240 --> 01:29:40,890
Yeah, yeah.

2003
01:29:40,890 --> 01:29:41,650
Probably.

2004
01:29:41,650 --> 01:29:46,590
In fact, I noted that
it was in April 1945.

2005
01:29:46,590 --> 01:29:47,140
Yeah.

2006
01:29:47,140 --> 01:29:48,250
Yes.

2007
01:29:48,250 --> 01:29:51,700
So this was Landsberg, and
this was a satellite of Dachau?

2008
01:29:51,700 --> 01:29:59,190
Yeah, Landsberg was the town
that Hitler was put in prison.

2009
01:29:59,190 --> 01:30:00,130
Really?

2010
01:30:00,130 --> 01:30:02,550
Yeah, he was in
prison, you know.

2011

01:30:02,550 --> 01:30:03,270
Yeah.

2012
01:30:03,270 --> 01:30:04,890
But that was in the '20s.

2013
01:30:04,890 --> 01:30:05,490
in the what?

2014
01:30:05,490 --> 01:30:06,330
In the '20s.

2015
01:30:06,330 --> 01:30:08,475
Well, he was put-- that's
where the prison was,

2016
01:30:08,475 --> 01:30:10,470
in Landsberg in Germany.

2017
01:30:10,470 --> 01:30:11,910
Uh-huh.

2018
01:30:11,910 --> 01:30:17,760
So when you entered this
camp, what did you see?

2019
01:30:17,760 --> 01:30:20,120
That's the hardest part
for me to talk about,

2020
01:30:20,120 --> 01:30:22,170
because it never gets
out of your mind,

2021
01:30:22,170 --> 01:30:24,360
to be frank with you.

2022
01:30:24,360 --> 01:30:27,900
What I saw, I walked in.

2023
01:30:27,900 --> 01:30:30,430
The door was open.

2024

01:30:30,430 --> 01:30:34,830

And what I saw there
I can't describe it.

2025

01:30:34,830 --> 01:30:38,130

That's what got me
talking to students

2026

01:30:38,130 --> 01:30:43,620

at this stage of my
life, to tell them

2027

01:30:43,620 --> 01:30:47,040

that it's being denied
that it ever happened.

2028

01:30:47,040 --> 01:30:47,970

You understand?

2029

01:30:47,970 --> 01:30:50,940

I want to get the message
across that people

2030

01:30:50,940 --> 01:30:56,940

shouldn't-- there's a tremendous
amount of people that deny that

2031

01:30:56,940 --> 01:30:58,640

the Holocaust ever happened.

2032

01:30:58,640 --> 01:31:02,310

It was a propaganda situation.

2033

01:31:02,310 --> 01:31:06,238

You can't tell me it was a
propaganda, because I was--

2034

01:31:06,238 --> 01:31:07,280

Well, take us through it.

2035

01:31:07,280 --> 01:31:07,830

Pardon me?

2036

01:31:07,830 --> 01:31:08,740

Take us through it.

2037

01:31:08,740 --> 01:31:10,700

When you come to the edge--

2038

01:31:10,700 --> 01:31:11,200

Well--

2039

01:31:11,200 --> 01:31:13,060

I need to see through your eyes.

2040

01:31:13,060 --> 01:31:13,650

OK.

2041

01:31:13,650 --> 01:31:16,530

What happened is
that I walked in.

2042

01:31:16,530 --> 01:31:18,895

Is this a building
or a compound?

2043

01:31:18,895 --> 01:31:19,520

Or what was it?

2044

01:31:19,520 --> 01:31:24,130

No, this is like a Quonset hut.

2045

01:31:24,130 --> 01:31:26,640

OK, so it was one building.

2046

01:31:26,640 --> 01:31:28,480

Well, there was a
lot of building.

2047

01:31:28,480 --> 01:31:28,980

OK.

2048

01:31:28,980 --> 01:31:29,880
But this was one.

2049
01:31:29,880 --> 01:31:31,960
This was the first one that I--

2050
01:31:31,960 --> 01:31:32,640
Entered.

2051
01:31:32,640 --> 01:31:34,140
That I entered.

2052
01:31:34,140 --> 01:31:37,980
And when I walked in
there, first of all,

2053
01:31:37,980 --> 01:31:40,590
the odor was terrible.

2054
01:31:40,590 --> 01:31:42,090
Unbelievable.

2055
01:31:42,090 --> 01:31:45,680
These people were--
some where alive yet.

2056
01:31:45,680 --> 01:31:49,560
Some were emaciated
that were able--

2057
01:31:49,560 --> 01:31:58,470
there was about 15 in
this particular building,

2058
01:31:58,470 --> 01:32:01,320
in this hut, really.

2059
01:32:01,320 --> 01:32:07,200
And I walked, walked,
started to walk.

2060
01:32:07,200 --> 01:32:11,230

And they were so happy
to see an American.

2061
01:32:11,230 --> 01:32:14,070
They didn't have to be told
that it was an American.

2062
01:32:14,070 --> 01:32:18,330
They were waiting for
the Americans already.

2063
01:32:18,330 --> 01:32:24,450
They knew that the
Americans were on their way.

2064
01:32:24,450 --> 01:32:30,950
And what I saw there, it's
hard to describe, actually.

2065
01:32:30,950 --> 01:32:31,980
Were there bunk beds?

2066
01:32:31,980 --> 01:32:33,750
Was this a sleeping quarters?

2067
01:32:33,750 --> 01:32:35,580
This was-- a sleeping quarter?

2068
01:32:35,580 --> 01:32:39,090
What this was, was boards.

2069
01:32:39,090 --> 01:32:39,660
That's all.

2070
01:32:39,660 --> 01:32:41,775
They slept on boards.

2071
01:32:41,775 --> 01:32:43,110
OK.

2072
01:32:43,110 --> 01:32:44,950
And it was--

2073
01:32:44,950 --> 01:32:48,870
And about how many people
do you think were in there?

2074
01:32:48,870 --> 01:32:50,670
On this one that
I was in, I would

2075
01:32:50,670 --> 01:32:54,032
say probably it was about 15.

2076
01:32:54,032 --> 01:32:55,303
OK, 15.

2077
01:32:55,303 --> 01:32:56,970
So it must have been
a very small place.

2078
01:32:56,970 --> 01:32:57,470
Very small.

2079
01:32:57,470 --> 01:33:00,600
Yes, this particular one.

2080
01:33:00,600 --> 01:33:03,900
But they had them all over.

2081
01:33:03,900 --> 01:33:07,350
It was a big area.

2082
01:33:07,350 --> 01:33:10,650
The camp itself was a big area.

2083
01:33:10,650 --> 01:33:17,850
Because I had just received
a package from home.

2084
01:33:17,850 --> 01:33:23,100
I had a relation that was
in the market business.

2085

01:33:23,100 --> 01:33:27,810

And occasionally he would
put a big package of food,

2086

01:33:27,810 --> 01:33:30,030

and he would send it to me.

2087

01:33:30,030 --> 01:33:33,225

It might take a
month to get to me.

2088

01:33:33,225 --> 01:33:35,940

2089

01:33:35,940 --> 01:33:40,860

And you don't want a package
that you walking with.

2090

01:33:40,860 --> 01:33:45,930

In any event, I
went, and the driver

2091

01:33:45,930 --> 01:33:49,120

allowed me to put this
package in his Jeep.

2092

01:33:49,120 --> 01:33:51,630

He was a driver.

2093

01:33:51,630 --> 01:33:56,880

And I took the package,
brought it into this place.

2094

01:33:56,880 --> 01:34:01,630

And I lied it on the floor
and opened the package there.

2095

01:34:01,630 --> 01:34:04,260

2096

01:34:04,260 --> 01:34:06,290

I can't tell you

what took place.

2097

01:34:06,290 --> 01:34:10,790

Those that were able
to pick their heads up

2098

01:34:10,790 --> 01:34:13,770

started to crawl
towards the package.

2099

01:34:13,770 --> 01:34:16,520

2100

01:34:16,520 --> 01:34:21,050

And what happened
after that, though,

2101

01:34:21,050 --> 01:34:27,710

they started claw each other,
really, to get to the food.

2102

01:34:27,710 --> 01:34:32,840

So my captain, who was the
head of that whole thing,

2103

01:34:32,840 --> 01:34:36,350

came in and put his
hand on my shoulder,

2104

01:34:36,350 --> 01:34:39,890

and he says, Vince, the
smartest thing you can do

2105

01:34:39,890 --> 01:34:41,930

is take that package out.

2106

01:34:41,930 --> 01:34:46,020

Because they're gonna
just claw each other,

2107

01:34:46,020 --> 01:34:48,510

and you don't want to
see that take place.

2108
01:34:48,510 --> 01:34:51,150
Which he was 100% correct,
and that's what I did.

2109
01:34:51,150 --> 01:34:53,270
I took it out.

2110
01:34:53,270 --> 01:34:56,375
But from then, then I started--

2111
01:34:56,375 --> 01:34:57,750
Did anyone talk to you?

2112
01:34:57,750 --> 01:34:58,250
Who?

2113
01:34:58,250 --> 01:34:59,667
Of these people
who were in there.

2114
01:34:59,667 --> 01:35:01,790
Did any of them talk to you?

2115
01:35:01,790 --> 01:35:03,200
They couldn't talk.

2116
01:35:03,200 --> 01:35:06,590
They were beyond
the talking stage.

2117
01:35:06,590 --> 01:35:08,993
They could hardly
get out of the--

2118
01:35:08,993 --> 01:35:09,910
Slats where they were.

2119
01:35:09,910 --> 01:35:11,760
Slats, yeah.

2120

01:35:11,760 --> 01:35:13,130
They could hardly.

2121
01:35:13,130 --> 01:35:14,420
It was like a bunk bed.

2122
01:35:14,420 --> 01:35:15,648
You know, except board.

2123
01:35:15,648 --> 01:35:16,565
There was no mattress.

2124
01:35:16,565 --> 01:35:17,900
It was just boards.

2125
01:35:17,900 --> 01:35:18,680
Yeah.

2126
01:35:18,680 --> 01:35:21,110
And I don't know how long
they were laying on the boards

2127
01:35:21,110 --> 01:35:23,750
and stuff like that.

2128
01:35:23,750 --> 01:35:27,200
I have a book here I brought.

2129
01:35:27,200 --> 01:35:31,730
I was interviewed for a book.

2130
01:35:31,730 --> 01:35:34,430
In fact, the author
of this book,

2131
01:35:34,430 --> 01:35:40,280
took him three years
to write the book.

2132
01:35:40,280 --> 01:35:43,100
And why did it take
him three years?

2133
01:35:43,100 --> 01:35:47,270
Because he couldn't
find the guys

2134
01:35:47,270 --> 01:35:51,740
like me that he could speak to.

2135
01:35:51,740 --> 01:35:58,010
And one day-- one night, in
fact, I get a telephone call

2136
01:35:58,010 --> 01:35:59,840
from the author.

2137
01:35:59,840 --> 01:36:02,990
Name is Michael Hirsh.

2138
01:36:02,990 --> 01:36:07,160
And he says, you don't know
what I have been going through

2139
01:36:07,160 --> 01:36:13,760
to try to find people like
you that I can talk to.

2140
01:36:13,760 --> 01:36:16,700
Do you mind if I
ask you a question?

2141
01:36:16,700 --> 01:36:19,730
I remember it was
a Saturday night.

2142
01:36:19,730 --> 01:36:22,370
He had me on the phone,
without exaggeration,

2143
01:36:22,370 --> 01:36:24,130
for 2 and 1/2 hours.

2144
01:36:24,130 --> 01:36:25,310

Wow.

2145
01:36:25,310 --> 01:36:30,518
That's how many
questions he was asking.

2146
01:36:30,518 --> 01:36:34,130
And do you remember
any of those questions?

2147
01:36:34,130 --> 01:36:36,890
Yeah, I mean, it was all
of what you're asking.

2148
01:36:36,890 --> 01:36:38,265
Same stuff exactly.

2149
01:36:38,265 --> 01:36:39,170
Same stuff.

2150
01:36:39,170 --> 01:36:41,600
But he didn't go
into my grandparents.

2151
01:36:41,600 --> 01:36:43,720
[LAUGHTER]

2152
01:36:43,720 --> 01:36:45,700
No, he only went into the--

2153
01:36:45,700 --> 01:36:48,135
What happened in Landsberg.

2154
01:36:48,135 --> 01:36:50,250
Up to the-- yeah, right.

2155
01:36:50,250 --> 01:36:50,750
Yeah.

2156
01:36:50,750 --> 01:36:51,860
So--

2157

01:36:51,860 --> 01:36:53,790

Did you go in any other huts?

2158

01:36:53,790 --> 01:36:54,290

Pardon me?

2159

01:36:54,290 --> 01:36:56,910

Did you go into any of the
other huts that were there?

2160

01:36:56,910 --> 01:36:59,210

Oh, I didn't go
into all the huts,

2161

01:36:59,210 --> 01:37:03,590

but they came out from various--

2162

01:37:03,590 --> 01:37:05,530

they were all in these green--

2163

01:37:05,530 --> 01:37:08,180

in these like pajamas.

2164

01:37:08,180 --> 01:37:10,410

You must have seen
pictures of them.

2165

01:37:10,410 --> 01:37:12,560

Were they striped?

2166

01:37:12,560 --> 01:37:14,990

I have some over there, if
you want to take a look at it,

2167

01:37:14,990 --> 01:37:15,770

We'll take later.

2168

01:37:15,770 --> 01:37:17,360

We'll take a look later.

2169

01:37:17,360 --> 01:37:19,580

They were striped, yeah.

2170

01:37:19,580 --> 01:37:22,700

Did anybody speak to
the American soldiers

2171

01:37:22,700 --> 01:37:23,690

of the prisoners?

2172

01:37:23,690 --> 01:37:24,920

Oh, yes.

2173

01:37:24,920 --> 01:37:26,120

Oh, yes.

2174

01:37:26,120 --> 01:37:27,300

In Yiddish.

2175

01:37:27,300 --> 01:37:29,675

That's one of my-- that was
gonna be one of my questions.

2176

01:37:29,675 --> 01:37:31,670

Did anyone come up
to you and start

2177

01:37:31,670 --> 01:37:33,320

talking to you in Yiddish?

2178

01:37:33,320 --> 01:37:34,220

In Yiddish.

2179

01:37:34,220 --> 01:37:35,470

So can you tell me about that?

2180

01:37:35,470 --> 01:37:40,790

They didn't know whether I was
German, or French, or anything.

2181

01:37:40,790 --> 01:37:43,100

But they started--

2182

01:37:43,100 --> 01:37:45,590

I understand Yiddish.

2183

01:37:45,590 --> 01:37:48,980

So I knew what they
were talking about.

2184

01:37:48,980 --> 01:37:51,590

And I started asking
all kinds of questions.

2185

01:37:51,590 --> 01:37:57,410

And they didn't want to talk
about a lot of things, though.

2186

01:37:57,410 --> 01:38:00,840

They were only-- what
they went through

2187

01:38:00,840 --> 01:38:03,950

was a thing that you
couldn't imagine.

2188

01:38:03,950 --> 01:38:05,810

The first place that I--

2189

01:38:05,810 --> 01:38:11,510

after I left this particular
thing, maybe about 2,000 yards

2190

01:38:11,510 --> 01:38:20,730

down, they built an area, the
Germans did, before they left.

2191

01:38:20,730 --> 01:38:26,130

I entered there
exactly two nights

2192

01:38:26,130 --> 01:38:29,320

before they left they
left two nights before.

2193

01:38:29,320 --> 01:38:29,910
You went.

2194
01:38:29,910 --> 01:38:33,360
They walked out of that place.

2195
01:38:33,360 --> 01:38:36,750
But before they did
that, what they created,

2196
01:38:36,750 --> 01:38:40,920
they burned some
of these huts down.

2197
01:38:40,920 --> 01:38:42,590
They burnt them down.

2198
01:38:42,590 --> 01:38:45,120
They poured gasoline all over.

2199
01:38:45,120 --> 01:38:46,260
With the people inside?

2200
01:38:46,260 --> 01:38:47,610
Sure.

2201
01:38:47,610 --> 01:38:49,620
The people were inside.

2202
01:38:49,620 --> 01:38:54,510
And they just burnt to a crisp.

2203
01:38:54,510 --> 01:38:57,380
And this thing that I'm
describing was a huge--

2204
01:38:57,380 --> 01:38:59,920

2205
01:38:59,920 --> 01:39:03,210
it was a huge ditch that
might have been set anywheres

2206
01:39:03,210 --> 01:39:11,170
from seven, eight yards
to about 20 yards.

2207
01:39:11,170 --> 01:39:15,030
And what they did is
that a lot of those

2208
01:39:15,030 --> 01:39:23,100
that they found in these huts,
they brought them to the ditch,

2209
01:39:23,100 --> 01:39:26,040
and shot them,
every one of them,

2210
01:39:26,040 --> 01:39:28,250
and pushed them into the ditch.

2211
01:39:28,250 --> 01:39:31,740
There they were piled up
like from here to the ceiling

2212
01:39:31,740 --> 01:39:34,670
maybe twice with bodies.

2213
01:39:34,670 --> 01:39:36,430
Oh, my goodness.

2214
01:39:36,430 --> 01:39:38,340
It was horrendous.

2215
01:39:38,340 --> 01:39:42,900
There's not a word that you can
explain what they did there.

2216
01:39:42,900 --> 01:39:51,110
And my captain was there, and
he says, you know, he says,

2217
01:39:51,110 --> 01:39:54,330

General Eisenhower
is in the area now.

2218
01:39:54,330 --> 01:39:55,530
I'm gonna call him.

2219
01:39:55,530 --> 01:40:00,170
Maybe he wants to come down
and see what took place there.

2220
01:40:00,170 --> 01:40:02,550
I says, that would
be a good idea.

2221
01:40:02,550 --> 01:40:06,770
The following
morning, he came down.

2222
01:40:06,770 --> 01:40:13,130
So the captain said, Vince,
I want you to take him.

2223
01:40:13,130 --> 01:40:14,225
You take him.

2224
01:40:14,225 --> 01:40:16,360
You went with
General Eisenhower?

2225
01:40:16,360 --> 01:40:16,860
Yeah.

2226
01:40:16,860 --> 01:40:18,193
Well, let me tell you something.

2227
01:40:18,193 --> 01:40:21,520
That's something I
never forget, either.

2228
01:40:21,520 --> 01:40:27,900
He was standing closer
than I am to you now.

2229

01:40:27,900 --> 01:40:30,810
And I could see the teardrops--

2230

01:40:30,810 --> 01:40:35,070
this is a general that's
been through everything--

2231

01:40:35,070 --> 01:40:38,800
rolling down his cheek.

2232

01:40:38,800 --> 01:40:42,550
And when I gave this
information to the author

2233

01:40:42,550 --> 01:40:45,370
that I told him, that
was one of the things,

2234

01:40:45,370 --> 01:40:51,700
that I saw General Eisenhower,
I think two weeks later, he

2235

01:40:51,700 --> 01:40:53,230
called me--

2236

01:40:53,230 --> 01:40:56,180
not Eisenhower but the author--

2237

01:40:56,180 --> 01:40:59,350
and he said, look,
it's very important,

2238

01:40:59,350 --> 01:41:04,330
Vince, but I insist
that everything you say

2239

01:41:04,330 --> 01:41:05,970
has to be authentic.

2240

01:41:05,970 --> 01:41:08,980
I don't want any
guesswork or anything.

2241
01:41:08,980 --> 01:41:12,070
And General Eisenhower
was never at Landsberg.

2242
01:41:12,070 --> 01:41:16,090

2243
01:41:16,090 --> 01:41:18,120
I started to check my memory.

2244
01:41:18,120 --> 01:41:22,540
I mean, I still had good
memory at that time.

2245
01:41:22,540 --> 01:41:25,840
I says, well, I started
to apologize up and down.

2246
01:41:25,840 --> 01:41:28,870
I says, you want
to know something?

2247
01:41:28,870 --> 01:41:30,440
That was General Eisenhower.

2248
01:41:30,440 --> 01:41:33,460
There's no question in my mind.

2249
01:41:33,460 --> 01:41:37,690
Make a long story short,
two weeks later, he

2250
01:41:37,690 --> 01:41:41,170
called me and apologized.

2251
01:41:41,170 --> 01:41:43,000
He was able to authenticate it?

2252
01:41:43,000 --> 01:41:47,080
Yes, he says that he
certainly was there.

2253

01:41:47,080 --> 01:41:49,810

He says, not only was he there, but General Patton

2254

01:41:49,810 --> 01:41:52,310

was there, too.

2255

01:41:52,310 --> 01:41:53,680

Wow.

2256

01:41:53,680 --> 01:41:56,220

So we went through the whole--

2257

01:41:56,220 --> 01:41:58,800

About how much time did you spend with him?

2258

01:41:58,800 --> 01:42:00,510

Not much, not much.

2259

01:42:00,510 --> 01:42:01,770

I didn't spend much time.

2260

01:42:01,770 --> 01:42:05,310

He was only there for about a day and a half.

2261

01:42:05,310 --> 01:42:11,160

I took him to the gas chambers.

2262

01:42:11,160 --> 01:42:12,390

That was--

2263

01:42:12,390 --> 01:42:13,710

In Landsberg.

2264

01:42:13,710 --> 01:42:15,490

In Landsberg, yeah.

2265

01:42:15,490 --> 01:42:15,990

OK.

2266

01:42:15,990 --> 01:42:21,060

There was about 3,300
occupants of that-- it

2267

01:42:21,060 --> 01:42:23,550

was a big, big place, though.

2268

01:42:23,550 --> 01:42:27,330

That is, you guys
found 3,300 left?

2269

01:42:27,330 --> 01:42:28,110

Or that--

2270

01:42:28,110 --> 01:42:29,640

No, no.

2271

01:42:29,640 --> 01:42:31,200

I didn't know how
many were there,

2272

01:42:31,200 --> 01:42:34,500

but that's what I
read after a while.

2273

01:42:34,500 --> 01:42:35,000

OK.

2274

01:42:35,000 --> 01:42:39,720

That it was-- see, we came
from two different directions.

2275

01:42:39,720 --> 01:42:45,240

I came from one end,
and the tank outfit,

2276

01:42:45,240 --> 01:42:47,490

our tank outfit came
from another end.

2277

01:42:47,490 --> 01:42:52,380
So we both merged in
the same area there.

2278
01:42:52,380 --> 01:42:57,120
And when you were entering
for the first time,

2279
01:42:57,120 --> 01:43:03,000
you said it's off a dirt
road, were you alone,

2280
01:43:03,000 --> 01:43:06,240
or were you with other soldiers?

2281
01:43:06,240 --> 01:43:12,120
I was with our eight,
eight in our group.

2282
01:43:12,120 --> 01:43:13,690
So there were the eight of you?

2283
01:43:13,690 --> 01:43:14,250
Yeah.

2284
01:43:14,250 --> 01:43:16,580
And what were you
saying as you--

2285
01:43:16,580 --> 01:43:19,590
and here I am in
2017, asking you,

2286
01:43:19,590 --> 01:43:22,078
what were you saying as you
were entering this camp?

2287
01:43:22,078 --> 01:43:24,120
Do you remember what you
guys were talking about?

2288
01:43:24,120 --> 01:43:26,310
Did you know this is

a concentration camp?

2289

01:43:26,310 --> 01:43:27,300

Oh, I knew.

2290

01:43:27,300 --> 01:43:28,440

I knew, of course.

2291

01:43:28,440 --> 01:43:30,660

I knew it was a
concentration camp.

2292

01:43:30,660 --> 01:43:32,850

It was very easy to know.

2293

01:43:32,850 --> 01:43:36,570

I mean, anybody would know
that had been informed

2294

01:43:36,570 --> 01:43:38,220

of concentration camps.

2295

01:43:38,220 --> 01:43:40,140

They all looked alike, almost.

2296

01:43:40,140 --> 01:43:41,160

How did they look?

2297

01:43:41,160 --> 01:43:44,030

For some of us who've
never seen it live.

2298

01:43:44,030 --> 01:43:44,940

OK.

2299

01:43:44,940 --> 01:43:46,530

Tell us, what do you see?

2300

01:43:46,530 --> 01:43:55,180

First of all, they had the
barbed wire fences around them.

2301

01:43:55,180 --> 01:44:01,950

And actually, I don't know
how else to describe it,

2302

01:44:01,950 --> 01:44:06,390

but when you got inside, first
of all, by the time we got

2303

01:44:06,390 --> 01:44:09,480

in there, they had a chance--

2304

01:44:09,480 --> 01:44:11,700

those that were
able had a chance

2305

01:44:11,700 --> 01:44:15,930

to get out of their
particular Quonset huts,

2306

01:44:15,930 --> 01:44:18,180

and they were all over the--

2307

01:44:18,180 --> 01:44:19,640

The yard or something?

2308

01:44:19,640 --> 01:44:24,310

Yes, all over the area, you
know, walking, looking for us.

2309

01:44:24,310 --> 01:44:27,510

OK, so that when you
entered the compound area--

2310

01:44:27,510 --> 01:44:28,320

Yes.

2311

01:44:28,320 --> 01:44:30,120

--you already see people.

2312

01:44:30,120 --> 01:44:34,230

It's not like-- you see
people, inmate, prisoners,

2313
01:44:34,230 --> 01:44:35,640
former prisoners who were there.

2314
01:44:35,640 --> 01:44:38,370
They're walking around,
those that could.

2315
01:44:38,370 --> 01:44:41,700
This is after we penetrate
a little further.

2316
01:44:41,700 --> 01:44:45,720
The ones that I found
were those that were

2317
01:44:45,720 --> 01:44:48,210
in there that couldn't walk.

2318
01:44:48,210 --> 01:44:50,250
They couldn't walk at all.

2319
01:44:50,250 --> 01:44:52,710
That's the first ones
that I came across.

2320
01:44:52,710 --> 01:44:54,150
OK.

2321
01:44:54,150 --> 01:44:59,520
After that, what I saw after
that was pretty horrible,

2322
01:44:59,520 --> 01:45:03,870
but I stopped to talk to
some of them along the way.

2323
01:45:03,870 --> 01:45:08,950
You can't believe the emaciated
people that were there.

2324
01:45:08,950 --> 01:45:12,360

And I met other
than Jewish people.

2325
01:45:12,360 --> 01:45:14,310
I met one in
particular, I remember

2326
01:45:14,310 --> 01:45:19,260
very well, that was a
priest, a Catholic priest.

2327
01:45:19,260 --> 01:45:20,520
What kind of impression?

2328
01:45:20,520 --> 01:45:21,090
Why?

2329
01:45:21,090 --> 01:45:23,580
Why does that stay
in your memory?

2330
01:45:23,580 --> 01:45:27,290
Because you expect
it all to be Jews.

2331
01:45:27,290 --> 01:45:34,590
Concentration camps, they are
synonymous with Jewish people.

2332
01:45:34,590 --> 01:45:39,240
Yes, the majority, overwhelming
majority were Jews, yes.

2333
01:45:39,240 --> 01:45:44,790
But when I saw this
gentleman, and he

2334
01:45:44,790 --> 01:45:47,670
wasn't abused like the others.

2335
01:45:47,670 --> 01:45:49,230
I don't know why.

2336

01:45:49,230 --> 01:45:51,030

But he was a very nice--

2337

01:45:51,030 --> 01:45:54,780

but he was a prisoner,
in no uncertain terms.

2338

01:45:54,780 --> 01:45:56,340

And did you speak with him?

2339

01:45:56,340 --> 01:45:57,390

Yeah.

2340

01:45:57,390 --> 01:45:59,490

And how did you communicate?

2341

01:45:59,490 --> 01:46:02,178

He spoke English,
believe it or not.

2342

01:46:02,178 --> 01:46:02,970

I don't know where.

2343

01:46:02,970 --> 01:46:05,400

I couldn't get a lot of
information from him,

2344

01:46:05,400 --> 01:46:08,850

but I was very anxious
to know how he ended up

2345

01:46:08,850 --> 01:46:10,410

in a concentration camp.

2346

01:46:10,410 --> 01:46:11,700

Did he tell you?

2347

01:46:11,700 --> 01:46:14,550

Well, he didn't get
into a lot of it.

2348

01:46:14,550 --> 01:46:18,330

Do you know what
country he came from?

2349

01:46:18,330 --> 01:46:20,850

I don't remember exactly.

2350

01:46:20,850 --> 01:46:25,694

It had to be a country that
was probably nearby somewheres.

2351

01:46:25,694 --> 01:46:26,194

Mm-hmm.

2352

01:46:26,194 --> 01:46:32,460

2353

01:46:32,460 --> 01:46:34,410

How long were you in the camp?

2354

01:46:34,410 --> 01:46:36,260

Not long.

2355

01:46:36,260 --> 01:46:38,520

A little over two days.

2356

01:46:38,520 --> 01:46:39,650

That's a long time.

2357

01:46:39,650 --> 01:46:40,530

It's a long time.

2358

01:46:40,530 --> 01:46:43,500

Considering that some
soldiers just would come in,

2359

01:46:43,500 --> 01:46:45,960

look around 15 minutes,
and they move on.

2360

01:46:45,960 --> 01:46:50,040

Well, it was a little more

to me than it was maybe

2361
01:46:50,040 --> 01:46:51,780
to everybody else.

2362
01:46:51,780 --> 01:46:54,566
Because of the Jewish factor.

2363
01:46:54,566 --> 01:46:55,320
Yeah.

2364
01:46:55,320 --> 01:47:03,990
But the idea is that after
that, there was like a big hill

2365
01:47:03,990 --> 01:47:08,110
that you walked down from
there into the town itself,

2366
01:47:08,110 --> 01:47:12,850
which was about a
mile down there.

2367
01:47:12,850 --> 01:47:16,210
So I walked down the hill.

2368
01:47:16,210 --> 01:47:19,600
And I was very curious
to speak to the people

2369
01:47:19,600 --> 01:47:21,320
that I came across down there.

2370
01:47:21,320 --> 01:47:25,145
These are these call them
civilians or whatever you want.

2371
01:47:25,145 --> 01:47:25,645
Townpeople.

2372
01:47:25,645 --> 01:47:26,990
Huh?

2373
01:47:26,990 --> 01:47:27,490
Townspople.

2374
01:47:27,490 --> 01:47:29,990
Townspople, exactly.

2375
01:47:29,990 --> 01:47:35,530
And what I did is that I
took about five of them

2376
01:47:35,530 --> 01:47:42,610
and had them walk back
with me up the hill

2377
01:47:42,610 --> 01:47:47,440
to show them some of
the things that I saw.

2378
01:47:47,440 --> 01:47:53,130
Well, their reaction, you
can imagine, was horrendous.

2379
01:47:53,130 --> 01:47:55,590
They wouldn't believe.

2380
01:47:55,590 --> 01:47:56,860
Did it look--

2381
01:47:56,860 --> 01:47:58,960
I mean, you saw their reaction.

2382
01:47:58,960 --> 01:48:00,610
How did they react?

2383
01:48:00,610 --> 01:48:01,640
How did they react?

2384
01:48:01,640 --> 01:48:02,140
Yeah.

2385

01:48:02,140 --> 01:48:05,020
They reacted like
you would react--

2386
01:48:05,020 --> 01:48:07,210
in horror.

2387
01:48:07,210 --> 01:48:08,225
But who knows?

2388
01:48:08,225 --> 01:48:10,600
I mean, they could have been
frightened that here they're

2389
01:48:10,600 --> 01:48:12,940
right near the American soldier.

2390
01:48:12,940 --> 01:48:15,720
They don't know what
these American soldiers,

2391
01:48:15,720 --> 01:48:17,160
how they're gonna--

2392
01:48:17,160 --> 01:48:18,670
are they gonna annihilate them?

2393
01:48:18,670 --> 01:48:22,300
Are they gonna shoot
them or whatever?

2394
01:48:22,300 --> 01:48:26,980
But the idea is that that's
the way they reacted.

2395
01:48:26,980 --> 01:48:28,273
But they had to know.

2396
01:48:28,273 --> 01:48:29,440
Do you think they had known?

2397
01:48:29,440 --> 01:48:32,620

They had to know
something was going on,

2398
01:48:32,620 --> 01:48:39,080
because the odor
in the area was--

2399
01:48:39,080 --> 01:48:41,170
can't describe it.

2400
01:48:41,170 --> 01:48:42,730
Well, people say that.

2401
01:48:42,730 --> 01:48:44,470
And then I come back
with the question,

2402
01:48:44,470 --> 01:48:46,570
can you describe it for me?

2403
01:48:46,570 --> 01:48:48,430
But is there any
words that you would

2404
01:48:48,430 --> 01:48:53,780
find that would give us a sense
of what it could smell like?

2405
01:48:53,780 --> 01:48:55,480
No.

2406
01:48:55,480 --> 01:48:57,080
I couldn't, I couldn't.

2407
01:48:57,080 --> 01:48:57,580
OK.

2408
01:48:57,580 --> 01:49:00,580
That's the answer I get,
but I keep searching.

2409
01:49:00,580 --> 01:49:03,235

I keep wanting to know
it smells like this,

2410
01:49:03,235 --> 01:49:04,660
or it smells like that.

2411
01:49:04,660 --> 01:49:06,880
Well, you can
imagine dead bodies.

2412
01:49:06,880 --> 01:49:09,880
I mean, what are dead bodies?

2413
01:49:09,880 --> 01:49:14,000
Most of them, what was
doing up there was--

2414
01:49:14,000 --> 01:49:14,890
Decomposing.

2415
01:49:14,890 --> 01:49:20,740
"Horrendous" is just a
very mild description.

2416
01:49:20,740 --> 01:49:25,690
I mean, it's just, you
can't get into all of that,

2417
01:49:25,690 --> 01:49:27,520
because there's no
way in the world

2418
01:49:27,520 --> 01:49:31,930
that you can describe it
that people would understand.

2419
01:49:31,930 --> 01:49:36,460
I mean, look, if I tell you
that I saw the beads of tears

2420
01:49:36,460 --> 01:49:41,590
on Eisenhower's face and
I wasn't exaggerating,

2421
01:49:41,590 --> 01:49:44,240
that tells something in itself.

2422
01:49:44,240 --> 01:49:44,920
Yes, it does.

2423
01:49:44,920 --> 01:49:45,780
Yeah.

2424
01:49:45,780 --> 01:49:46,820
Yes, it does.

2425
01:49:46,820 --> 01:49:48,740
That tells something in itself.

2426
01:49:48,740 --> 01:49:54,700
Now, your father was asking
about concentration camps.

2427
01:49:54,700 --> 01:49:57,970
Did you write to him and
tell him what you saw?

2428
01:49:57,970 --> 01:49:58,900
Yes, I did.

2429
01:49:58,900 --> 01:50:02,140
Of course I wrote
him, but I don't know.

2430
01:50:02,140 --> 01:50:04,090
By the time he got
it, I don't know.

2431
01:50:04,090 --> 01:50:09,850
But I absolutely wrote him,
and I explained where I was.

2432
01:50:09,850 --> 01:50:12,520
That's something that you
had to be very careful with.

2433
01:50:12,520 --> 01:50:15,940
They couldn't allow
you to write things,

2434
01:50:15,940 --> 01:50:18,670
because they would
go through your mail.

2435
01:50:18,670 --> 01:50:21,190

2436
01:50:21,190 --> 01:50:23,140
They would set--

2437
01:50:23,140 --> 01:50:27,993
They called them emails, you
know, a little about that size.

2438
01:50:27,993 --> 01:50:28,900
OK.

2439
01:50:28,900 --> 01:50:34,330
And those emails they
would scrutinize,

2440
01:50:34,330 --> 01:50:37,240
and they if there was
anything in there that

2441
01:50:37,240 --> 01:50:43,456
led to direction or whatever,
any important information,

2442
01:50:43,456 --> 01:50:44,030
they would--

2443
01:50:44,030 --> 01:50:44,950
Censor it.

2444
01:50:44,950 --> 01:50:45,520
Censor it.

2445
01:50:45,520 --> 01:50:47,090
So this was the army censors.

2446
01:50:47,090 --> 01:50:48,610
This was the army censors.

2447
01:50:48,610 --> 01:50:49,245
Right, exactly.

2448
01:50:49,245 --> 01:50:52,600

2449
01:50:52,600 --> 01:50:56,380
But that was a very
big factor, though.

2450
01:50:56,380 --> 01:51:01,470
To make sure, you never know
whose hands they end up in.

2451
01:51:01,470 --> 01:51:04,830
And they were very careful with
that, with that kind of stuff,

2452
01:51:04,830 --> 01:51:05,330
though.

2453
01:51:05,330 --> 01:51:08,680
So there was the term
"email" during World War II,

2454
01:51:08,680 --> 01:51:10,090
but it meant something else.

2455
01:51:10,090 --> 01:51:12,190
Exactly.

2456
01:51:12,190 --> 01:51:15,370
I never thought of it that
way, but that was emails.

2457
01:51:15,370 --> 01:51:16,000
Exactly.

2458
01:51:16,000 --> 01:51:16,859
Mm-hmm.

2459
01:51:16,859 --> 01:51:17,359
Emails.

2460
01:51:17,359 --> 01:51:20,080

2461
01:51:20,080 --> 01:51:22,810
And you were there two days.

2462
01:51:22,810 --> 01:51:24,730
Quite-- almost two days.

2463
01:51:24,730 --> 01:51:27,280
Almost two days.

2464
01:51:27,280 --> 01:51:30,550
And did you have to
ask permission to stay,

2465
01:51:30,550 --> 01:51:32,920
or could you just stay?

2466
01:51:32,920 --> 01:51:39,310
No, it was a little shorter
than two days because the--

2467
01:51:39,310 --> 01:51:42,590
my captain, who was
a wonderful man--

2468
01:51:42,590 --> 01:51:44,270
he got killed, too, by the way.

2469
01:51:44,270 --> 01:51:45,940
What was his name,

if you remember?

2470

01:51:45,940 --> 01:51:49,210

Joseph Revis from
North Carolina.

2471

01:51:49,210 --> 01:51:52,000

R-E-V-E-S, Reves?

2472

01:51:52,000 --> 01:51:54,943

R-E-V-I-S, I think.

2473

01:51:54,943 --> 01:51:56,270

I-S. OK.

2474

01:51:56,270 --> 01:51:56,770

Yeah.

2475

01:51:56,770 --> 01:51:59,110

Joseph Revis.

2476

01:51:59,110 --> 01:52:02,680

He was a kind gentleman.

2477

01:52:02,680 --> 01:52:08,810

And infantry officer usually
are tough guys, you know?

2478

01:52:08,810 --> 01:52:13,140

But he was a very caring guy.

2479

01:52:13,140 --> 01:52:15,790

I can just imagine when he'd
put his hand on my shoulder

2480

01:52:15,790 --> 01:52:17,670

and telling me to
get that package out

2481

01:52:17,670 --> 01:52:21,460

of there, that gives you an idea
of the kind of person he was.

2482
01:52:21,460 --> 01:52:22,990
How did he meet his end?

2483
01:52:22,990 --> 01:52:23,560
Pardon me?

2484
01:52:23,560 --> 01:52:26,980
How did he meet his end?

2485
01:52:26,980 --> 01:52:29,110
How did he meet his end?

2486
01:52:29,110 --> 01:52:31,810
A bomb blew up.

2487
01:52:31,810 --> 01:52:35,230
He was in a Jeep
next to the driver.

2488
01:52:35,230 --> 01:52:38,650
He was sitting
alongside the driver.

2489
01:52:38,650 --> 01:52:42,870
And a bomb exploded or whatever.

2490
01:52:42,870 --> 01:52:45,020
And he got killed.

2491
01:52:45,020 --> 01:52:48,280
[MUMBLING] The amount of--

2492
01:52:48,280 --> 01:52:52,400
that took place that
never came back, but wow.

2493
01:52:52,400 --> 01:52:54,010
But they all had names.

2494
01:52:54,010 --> 01:52:55,990

They all had names.

2495

01:52:55,990 --> 01:52:57,220

That's right.

2496

01:52:57,220 --> 01:53:00,730

They all had names.

2497

01:53:00,730 --> 01:53:06,580

So when you left, what was the reason for leaving Landsberg?

2498

01:53:06,580 --> 01:53:08,850

Was it that your unit was moving forward?

2499

01:53:08,850 --> 01:53:13,070

Our destination was Berlin.

2500

01:53:13,070 --> 01:53:15,700

Now, what's the name of the town?

2501

01:53:15,700 --> 01:53:17,810

There was a very--

2502

01:53:17,810 --> 01:53:22,360

there was a city 30 miles North of Landsberg.

2503

01:53:22,360 --> 01:53:24,530

That was our first objective.

2504

01:53:24,530 --> 01:53:25,635

OK.

2505

01:53:25,635 --> 01:53:28,750

I forgot the name of this city.

2506

01:53:28,750 --> 01:53:33,290

I'll have to write you in Falls Church.

2507
01:53:33,290 --> 01:53:34,990
[LAUGHTER]

2508
01:53:34,990 --> 01:53:35,650
Yeah, this--

2509
01:53:35,650 --> 01:53:38,454
Can we cut for a second?

2510
01:53:38,454 --> 01:53:39,950
Sure.

2511
01:53:39,950 --> 01:53:41,080
We are rolling.

2512
01:53:41,080 --> 01:53:42,910
OK.

2513
01:53:42,910 --> 01:53:47,690
So we found out that
where Landsberg is.

2514
01:53:47,690 --> 01:53:52,060
And so because Dachau is in
the neighborhood of Munich,

2515
01:53:52,060 --> 01:53:54,970
and you said that Landsberg
was a sub-camp of Dachau.

2516
01:53:54,970 --> 01:53:55,900
Was that right?

2517
01:53:55,900 --> 01:53:56,530
Yes.

2518
01:53:56,530 --> 01:53:57,050
OK.

2519
01:53:57,050 --> 01:53:57,550

So--

2520

01:53:57,550 --> 01:54:03,700

Dachau had maybe about 25
camps individually named,

2521

01:54:03,700 --> 01:54:07,780

but they were all
satellites of Dachau.

2522

01:54:07,780 --> 01:54:11,290

So Landsberg is South of Munich.

2523

01:54:11,290 --> 01:54:15,520

Because you said that
afterwards your objective

2524

01:54:15,520 --> 01:54:18,250

was to go 30 miles North.

2525

01:54:18,250 --> 01:54:19,660

After Landsberg.

2526

01:54:19,660 --> 01:54:20,180

OK.

2527

01:54:20,180 --> 01:54:20,680

Right.

2528

01:54:20,680 --> 01:54:23,470

And so was Munich
occupied at that point,

2529

01:54:23,470 --> 01:54:25,000

or you were gonna take it over?

2530

01:54:25,000 --> 01:54:26,670

That was the idea?

2531

01:54:26,670 --> 01:54:29,420

The idea is that we didn't know.

2532

01:54:29,420 --> 01:54:34,210

I really can't even answer
that, whether they were finished

2533

01:54:34,210 --> 01:54:36,760

with a surrender there or not.

2534

01:54:36,760 --> 01:54:40,030

I don't really recall
what the story was.

2535

01:54:40,030 --> 01:54:44,370

But I do know it was the
next stop from Landsberg.

2536

01:54:44,370 --> 01:54:45,460

OK.

2537

01:54:45,460 --> 01:54:46,030

Was Munich.

2538

01:54:46,030 --> 01:54:48,430

And did you go through the city?

2539

01:54:48,430 --> 01:54:50,680

Yeah, we went right
through the city.

2540

01:54:50,680 --> 01:54:53,350

Did you stay or
just go on further?

2541

01:54:53,350 --> 01:54:54,290

Just went through it.

2542

01:54:54,290 --> 01:54:54,790

That's it.

2543

01:54:54,790 --> 01:54:55,960

Did not stay.

2544

01:54:55,960 --> 01:54:58,850
Did you get to Dachau
itself, the main camp?

2545
01:54:58,850 --> 01:54:59,350
No.

2546
01:54:59,350 --> 01:55:00,920
No, you passed by that, too?

2547
01:55:00,920 --> 01:55:01,780
Yes, yeah.

2548
01:55:01,780 --> 01:55:05,230
By the way, I didn't ask you
earlier, but for the record,

2549
01:55:05,230 --> 01:55:09,340
can you tell me the
identification of your unit

2550
01:55:09,340 --> 01:55:11,920
and what part of the army
you were from and so on,

2551
01:55:11,920 --> 01:55:13,090
so that we'd know?

2552
01:55:13,090 --> 01:55:15,190
Yeah.

2553
01:55:15,190 --> 01:55:17,260
That's easy.

2554
01:55:17,260 --> 01:55:20,110
63rd Infantry Division.

2555
01:55:20,110 --> 01:55:22,256
63rd Infantry Division?

2556
01:55:22,256 --> 01:55:22,950
OK.

2557
01:55:22,950 --> 01:55:24,280
Yeah.

2558
01:55:24,280 --> 01:55:26,860
You want to mark it down.

2559
01:55:26,860 --> 01:55:29,980
And after, Munich
then where did you go?

2560
01:55:29,980 --> 01:55:32,640

2561
01:55:32,640 --> 01:55:36,750
After Munich, we continued
on towards Berlin.

2562
01:55:36,750 --> 01:55:37,980
Did you get to Berlin?

2563
01:55:37,980 --> 01:55:39,160
Not quite.

2564
01:55:39,160 --> 01:55:40,290
OK, what--

2565
01:55:40,290 --> 01:55:44,436
The reason we didn't get
to Berlin is that the--

2566
01:55:44,436 --> 01:55:49,950
it was very funny,
because they sent us.

2567
01:55:49,950 --> 01:55:54,380
They sent us home, by the way,
if you had so many points.

2568
01:55:54,380 --> 01:55:56,060
This is later on.

2569

01:55:56,060 --> 01:55:58,260

OK, this is after the war?

2570

01:55:58,260 --> 01:56:00,160

This was after the war, right.

2571

01:56:00,160 --> 01:56:00,660

OK.

2572

01:56:00,660 --> 01:56:01,830

But they had certain--

2573

01:56:01,830 --> 01:56:04,110

you have to accumulate
certain points.

2574

01:56:04,110 --> 01:56:06,750

How many years you
were in the service,

2575

01:56:06,750 --> 01:56:10,990

and whether you were in
combat, stuff like that.

2576

01:56:10,990 --> 01:56:12,310

So I'm bouncing around.

2577

01:56:12,310 --> 01:56:14,970

That's the only thing
to confuse you, though.

2578

01:56:14,970 --> 01:56:22,833

But the idea is that
they sent me to La Havre.

2579

01:56:22,833 --> 01:56:24,640

Oh.

2580

01:56:24,640 --> 01:56:25,510

OK.

2581

01:56:25,510 --> 01:56:28,510
And they were sending me--

2582
01:56:28,510 --> 01:56:30,400
from La Havre,
they were sending--

2583
01:56:30,400 --> 01:56:32,650
the war in Japan was not over.

2584
01:56:32,650 --> 01:56:37,850
They were sending
me to the Pacific.

2585
01:56:37,850 --> 01:56:40,380
This is after the war
in Europe was over?

2586
01:56:40,380 --> 01:56:41,190
Yeah.

2587
01:56:41,190 --> 01:56:42,790
OK.

2588
01:56:42,790 --> 01:56:46,710
I want to stay focused on the
war in Europe to begin with.

2589
01:56:46,710 --> 01:56:47,210
Good.

2590
01:56:47,210 --> 01:56:49,270
The Battle of the
Bulge that you said

2591
01:56:49,270 --> 01:56:55,420
you took part in, that was
before you liberated Landsberg?

2592
01:56:55,420 --> 01:56:58,600
That was before you
liberated these camps?

2593

01:56:58,600 --> 01:56:59,350

Or was it after?

2594

01:56:59,350 --> 01:57:00,700

The Battle of the Bulge?

2595

01:57:00,700 --> 01:57:02,020

Yeah.

2596

01:57:02,020 --> 01:57:08,590

The Battle of the Bulge
was after Landsberg.

2597

01:57:08,590 --> 01:57:09,550

OK.

2598

01:57:09,550 --> 01:57:10,420

Truly?

2599

01:57:10,420 --> 01:57:12,280

Because Landsberg,
if you liberated

2600

01:57:12,280 --> 01:57:14,860

that in April and
the war ends in May--

2601

01:57:14,860 --> 01:57:19,450

2602

01:57:19,450 --> 01:57:23,530

Landsberg was the
concentration camp.

2603

01:57:23,530 --> 01:57:24,130

Correct.

2604

01:57:24,130 --> 01:57:24,660

Right?

2605

01:57:24,660 --> 01:57:25,160

Correct.

2606

01:57:25,160 --> 01:57:30,430

2607

01:57:30,430 --> 01:57:32,510

And we're trying to
figure out what happens

2608

01:57:32,510 --> 01:57:34,910

after we left Landsberg.

2609

01:57:34,910 --> 01:57:36,020

Right.

2610

01:57:36,020 --> 01:57:38,660

And you're asking about
where did we go from there?

2611

01:57:38,660 --> 01:57:39,160

Yeah.

2612

01:57:39,160 --> 01:57:43,290

2613

01:57:43,290 --> 01:57:47,570

Well, after the next notable
place that we went was--

2614

01:57:47,570 --> 01:57:48,170

Munich.

2615

01:57:48,170 --> 01:57:48,960

Munich.

2616

01:57:48,960 --> 01:57:49,590

OK.

2617

01:57:49,590 --> 01:57:50,190

Right.

2618

01:57:50,190 --> 01:57:52,530
And then after that?

2619
01:57:52,530 --> 01:57:55,050
After that we were
ahead heading,

2620
01:57:55,050 --> 01:57:57,720
but never got into Berlin.

2621
01:57:57,720 --> 01:58:03,510
Now by this point, it might
be in late April, early May.

2622
01:58:03,510 --> 01:58:05,190
Something like that.

2623
01:58:05,190 --> 01:58:06,600
Yes.

2624
01:58:06,600 --> 01:58:07,500
Do you know?

2625
01:58:07,500 --> 01:58:12,240
Do you remember where you
were when the war ended?

2626
01:58:12,240 --> 01:58:14,510
Where was when the war ended?

2627
01:58:14,510 --> 01:58:16,154
You mean in Europe?

2628
01:58:16,154 --> 01:58:16,980
Mm-hmm.

2629
01:58:16,980 --> 01:58:17,790
The European war.

2630
01:58:17,790 --> 01:58:19,770
It was May 9th, I believe.

2631
01:58:19,770 --> 01:58:22,440
May 8th or 9th.

2632
01:58:22,440 --> 01:58:24,735
That's just about
when Roosevelt died.

2633
01:58:24,735 --> 01:58:27,310

2634
01:58:27,310 --> 01:58:28,820
A little before.

2635
01:58:28,820 --> 01:58:29,670
A little before.

2636
01:58:29,670 --> 01:58:31,180
Yeah, he died in May.

2637
01:58:31,180 --> 01:58:31,680
Did he?

2638
01:58:31,680 --> 01:58:33,240
I think the 13th.

2639
01:58:33,240 --> 01:58:34,230
Wow.

2640
01:58:34,230 --> 01:58:37,620
12th or the 13th
was when he died.

2641
01:58:37,620 --> 01:58:38,580
Where was I?

2642
01:58:38,580 --> 01:58:42,160

2643
01:58:42,160 --> 01:58:45,700
Well, I started
to tell you that--

2644
01:58:45,700 --> 01:58:47,980
what did I start
to tell you about?

2645
01:58:47,980 --> 01:58:49,010
La Havre.

2646
01:58:49,010 --> 01:58:50,530
That you were gonna
go to La Havre,

2647
01:58:50,530 --> 01:58:54,020
but I want to talk about Europe.

2648
01:58:54,020 --> 01:58:56,030
I want to know if--

2649
01:58:56,030 --> 01:58:59,410
you know, when you
never made it to Berlin,

2650
01:58:59,410 --> 01:59:02,080
to what place did
your unit make it?

2651
01:59:02,080 --> 01:59:05,470
Just a little bit North of--

2652
01:59:05,470 --> 01:59:07,720
just a little bit North
of what do you call it?

2653
01:59:07,720 --> 01:59:08,320
Munich.

2654
01:59:08,320 --> 01:59:09,260
Munich.

2655
01:59:09,260 --> 01:59:11,930
Not much further than Munich.

2656

01:59:11,930 --> 01:59:14,890

So that would have to be--

2657

01:59:14,890 --> 01:59:18,850

if the concentration

camp was round April--

2658

01:59:18,850 --> 01:59:19,780

Yeah.

2659

01:59:19,780 --> 01:59:24,460

--it would have to be around

that, May or whatever.

2660

01:59:24,460 --> 01:59:25,540

OK, OK.

2661

01:59:25,540 --> 01:59:27,260

So you were still in Bavaria?

2662

01:59:27,260 --> 01:59:27,760

Yeah.

2663

01:59:27,760 --> 01:59:28,560

Did you--

2664

01:59:28,560 --> 01:59:29,960

Was I in Bavaria?

2665

01:59:29,960 --> 01:59:30,460

Yeah.

2666

01:59:30,460 --> 01:59:30,960

Yeah.

2667

01:59:30,960 --> 01:59:33,420

Munich and Dachau and

so on, it's all Bavaria.

2668

01:59:33,420 --> 01:59:33,920

Yes.

2669
01:59:33,920 --> 01:59:37,120

2670
01:59:37,120 --> 01:59:40,420
Did you have any more
battles after that?

2671
01:59:40,420 --> 01:59:42,880
Were you involved in any
more skirmishes, any more

2672
01:59:42,880 --> 01:59:46,610
confrontations,
armed confrontations?

2673
01:59:46,610 --> 01:59:52,580
After-- no.

2674
01:59:52,580 --> 01:59:53,080
OK.

2675
01:59:53,080 --> 01:59:54,760
No.

2676
01:59:54,760 --> 01:59:56,590
In fact, I was
starting to tell you,

2677
01:59:56,590 --> 02:00:02,500
after La Havre what happened
is that they were sending--

2678
02:00:02,500 --> 02:00:06,015
they put me on a ship to go
home, to go to the Pacific.

2679
02:00:06,015 --> 02:00:09,050

2680
02:00:09,050 --> 02:00:13,720
And that was Hiroshima.

2681
02:00:13,720 --> 02:00:15,445
They took me off the ship.

2682
02:00:15,445 --> 02:00:18,120

2683
02:00:18,120 --> 02:00:21,480
I was happy they took
me off, but anybody that

2684
02:00:21,480 --> 02:00:26,760
was on the ship, not my
ship but was on the way,

2685
02:00:26,760 --> 02:00:28,770
they would take you home.

2686
02:00:28,770 --> 02:00:32,340
They'd take you right
to New-- to America.

2687
02:00:32,340 --> 02:00:37,470
So you were-- in La Havre,
you were on your way to Japan,

2688
02:00:37,470 --> 02:00:38,220
or you--

2689
02:00:38,220 --> 02:00:39,930
On the way to Japan.

2690
02:00:39,930 --> 02:00:41,640
OK.

2691
02:00:41,640 --> 02:00:43,150
Did you make it to Japan?

2692
02:00:43,150 --> 02:00:44,220
No, no.

2693

02:00:44,220 --> 02:00:47,340
They took me-- they
took us off the ship.

2694
02:00:47,340 --> 02:00:48,400
Why?

2695
02:00:48,400 --> 02:00:51,120
Because the war ended in Japan.

2696
02:00:51,120 --> 02:00:52,850
That was Hiroshima.

2697
02:00:52,850 --> 02:00:53,710
Oh.

2698
02:00:53,710 --> 02:00:54,210
I see.

2699
02:00:54,210 --> 02:00:58,800
So you stayed for another
couple of months in Europe

2700
02:00:58,800 --> 02:01:01,860
because Hiroshima
was August '45.

2701
02:01:01,860 --> 02:01:05,400
All right, but listen,
the idea of what I stayed

2702
02:01:05,400 --> 02:01:10,680
was, after they took
us off the ship,

2703
02:01:10,680 --> 02:01:15,480
they sent me back to Germany
with the Army of Occupation

2704
02:01:15,480 --> 02:01:17,560
for one year.

2705

02:01:17,560 --> 02:01:18,120
I see.

2706
02:01:18,120 --> 02:01:20,620
So you never made it
home at that time.

2707
02:01:20,620 --> 02:01:21,810
No, not at all.

2708
02:01:21,810 --> 02:01:27,050
I didn't get home
until, I don't know.

2709
02:01:27,050 --> 02:01:30,860
I don't remember exactly
when, but that was--

2710
02:01:30,860 --> 02:01:33,000
I took the up as far as--

2711
02:01:33,000 --> 02:01:34,460
Right, I got it.

2712
02:01:34,460 --> 02:01:35,330
I got it.

2713
02:01:35,330 --> 02:01:40,190
Now, did you ever come
across any other such places

2714
02:01:40,190 --> 02:01:43,940
as Landsberg or any other
concentration camps?

2715
02:01:43,940 --> 02:01:45,332
No, I did not.

2716
02:01:45,332 --> 02:01:46,940
OK.

2717
02:01:46,940 --> 02:01:49,070

This was the one
thing that you saw.

2718
02:01:49,070 --> 02:01:51,330

That was the one
thing that I entered.

2719
02:01:51,330 --> 02:01:54,720

And I didn't see any other one.

2720
02:01:54,720 --> 02:01:55,750

It was enough.

2721
02:01:55,750 --> 02:01:56,520

That was enough.

2722
02:01:56,520 --> 02:01:57,170

Exactly.

2723
02:01:57,170 --> 02:01:59,150

That was enough.

2724
02:01:59,150 --> 02:02:00,090

But--

2725
02:02:00,090 --> 02:02:00,590

When you--

2726
02:02:00,590 --> 02:02:01,760

You know, it's very funny.

2727
02:02:01,760 --> 02:02:04,250

When I was in the
concentration--

2728
02:02:04,250 --> 02:02:05,330

not concentration.

2729
02:02:05,330 --> 02:02:07,568

When I was in the museum--

2730

02:02:07,568 --> 02:02:08,068
Mm-hmm.

2731
02:02:08,068 --> 02:02:11,700

2732
02:02:11,700 --> 02:02:14,060
--I sat down with
somebody there.

2733
02:02:14,060 --> 02:02:17,190
I'm talking about that
works at a museum.

2734
02:02:17,190 --> 02:02:18,680
Oh, our museum in
Washington, DC.

2735
02:02:18,680 --> 02:02:21,270
Your museum in Washington.

2736
02:02:21,270 --> 02:02:27,980
And I asked her a
question about Landsberg.

2737
02:02:27,980 --> 02:02:30,103
She said she never heard of it.

2738
02:02:30,103 --> 02:02:31,010
Uh-huh.

2739
02:02:31,010 --> 02:02:32,300
Would you believe that?

2740
02:02:32,300 --> 02:02:35,000
I couldn't believe it
when she said that.

2741
02:02:35,000 --> 02:02:35,690
Where is it?

2742
02:02:35,690 --> 02:02:37,970

Where was it?

2743

02:02:37,970 --> 02:02:40,340

I says, do you have a map?

2744

02:02:40,340 --> 02:02:43,550

So she took me to a huge map.

2745

02:02:43,550 --> 02:02:45,060

And sure enough--

2746

02:02:45,060 --> 02:02:45,710

There it was.

2747

02:02:45,710 --> 02:02:47,540

There it was.

2748

02:02:47,540 --> 02:02:50,180

Well, in some ways it's
not that surprising,

2749

02:02:50,180 --> 02:02:53,810

because people generally
know-- even colleagues--

2750

02:02:53,810 --> 02:02:55,140

know the major camps.

2751

02:02:55,140 --> 02:02:55,640

Yes.

2752

02:02:55,640 --> 02:02:57,510

And sometimes the
satellite camps--

2753

02:02:57,510 --> 02:02:58,010

Yes.

2754

02:02:58,010 --> 02:02:59,160

--we're less familiar with.

2755

02:02:59,160 --> 02:03:00,150
Probably.

2756
02:03:00,150 --> 02:03:00,650
Probably.

2757
02:03:00,650 --> 02:03:04,190
Look, they know
of Auschwitz and--

2758
02:03:04,190 --> 02:03:05,550
Treblinka.

2759
02:03:05,550 --> 02:03:06,050
Right.

2760
02:03:06,050 --> 02:03:07,290
Places like that.

2761
02:03:07,290 --> 02:03:12,230
But there was a lot of
these satellite camps

2762
02:03:12,230 --> 02:03:15,630
that that book has all the
history of that stuff, too.

2763
02:03:15,630 --> 02:03:16,820
You know, it's--

2764
02:03:16,820 --> 02:03:18,260
So I want to ask you this.

2765
02:03:18,260 --> 02:03:20,360
When you then get
sent back to Germany

2766
02:03:20,360 --> 02:03:24,320
as the Army of Occupation,
what was your job then?

2767
02:03:24,320 --> 02:03:27,110

What were you doing then?

2768

02:03:27,110 --> 02:03:28,220

What was I doing?

2769

02:03:28,220 --> 02:03:31,710

We were just there to make
certain that everything

2770

02:03:31,710 --> 02:03:33,770

was peaceful there.

2771

02:03:33,770 --> 02:03:35,330

You understand?

2772

02:03:35,330 --> 02:03:36,530

I didn't mind that.

2773

02:03:36,530 --> 02:03:40,790

I mean, naturally I would
have rather gone home.

2774

02:03:40,790 --> 02:03:42,890

But--

2775

02:03:42,890 --> 02:03:44,810

Where were you stationed?

2776

02:03:44,810 --> 02:03:46,700

Where was I stationed?

2777

02:03:46,700 --> 02:03:51,330

I was stationed-- the first
place that I was stationed was,

2778

02:03:51,330 --> 02:03:55,040

believe it or not, was
in Belgium, really.

2779

02:03:55,040 --> 02:03:57,260

After that, they
sent me to Antwerp.

2780
02:03:57,260 --> 02:04:01,810
And then from Antwerp
they sent me to--

2781
02:04:01,810 --> 02:04:03,510
they sent me to Germany.

2782
02:04:03,510 --> 02:04:04,530
OK, where in Germany?

2783
02:04:04,530 --> 02:04:07,112

2784
02:04:07,112 --> 02:04:07,820
Where in Germany?

2785
02:04:07,820 --> 02:04:12,830

2786
02:04:12,830 --> 02:04:16,180
I got it written somewheres, but
I don't remember the name of it

2787
02:04:16,180 --> 02:04:17,170
here.

2788
02:04:17,170 --> 02:04:18,760
The name of the town.

2789
02:04:18,760 --> 02:04:20,240
It was a small town.

2790
02:04:20,240 --> 02:04:22,790

2791
02:04:22,790 --> 02:04:26,330
We liked it very, very
much because they gave us

2792
02:04:26,330 --> 02:04:30,240

the opportunity to eat there.

2793

02:04:30,240 --> 02:04:36,695

In other words, when the war was over, I weighed 165 pounds.

2794

02:04:36,695 --> 02:04:38,090

Yeah.

2795

02:04:38,090 --> 02:04:41,870

And when I landed back in New York, you know,

2796

02:04:41,870 --> 02:04:49,060

after I got home, I went from 165 to 180.

2797

02:04:49,060 --> 02:04:53,030

Because of the opportunity to--

2798

02:04:53,030 --> 02:04:57,440

we'd have steak every night for dinner.

2799

02:04:57,440 --> 02:05:00,610

I would eat a dozen eggs every night.

2800

02:05:00,610 --> 02:05:02,740

And this is in New York, back in New York?

2801

02:05:02,740 --> 02:05:04,080

Oh, still in Germany.

2802

02:05:04,080 --> 02:05:04,580

Yeah.

2803

02:05:04,580 --> 02:05:05,360

Still in Germany.

2804

02:05:05,360 --> 02:05:06,470

This is still in Germany.

2805

02:05:06,470 --> 02:05:07,730

What was your job?

2806

02:05:07,730 --> 02:05:10,920

As part of the Army of Occupation, what was your job?

2807

02:05:10,920 --> 02:05:15,570

My job was-- my group was with me, too, you know.

2808

02:05:15,570 --> 02:05:16,070

OK.

2809

02:05:16,070 --> 02:05:21,680

And the whole idea was to make certain that there it's

2810

02:05:21,680 --> 02:05:23,040

peace and quiet.

2811

02:05:23,040 --> 02:05:24,800

So were you performing like police?

2812

02:05:24,800 --> 02:05:25,370

Were you--

2813

02:05:25,370 --> 02:05:27,170

Exactly like police.

2814

02:05:27,170 --> 02:05:29,600

Exactly like police.

2815

02:05:29,600 --> 02:05:30,500

Right.

2816

02:05:30,500 --> 02:05:33,170

This is what they did with the troops

2817
02:05:33,170 --> 02:05:35,630
that they didn't send home.

2818
02:05:35,630 --> 02:05:37,910
They sent them back
to-- they referred to it

2819
02:05:37,910 --> 02:05:40,640
as the Army of Occupation.

2820
02:05:40,640 --> 02:05:41,660
So really--

2821
02:05:41,660 --> 02:05:44,330
And you were based
in this small town.

2822
02:05:44,330 --> 02:05:47,570
Yes, but I can't
remember the small town.

2823
02:05:47,570 --> 02:05:51,500
It wasn't a
significant town, so--

2824
02:05:51,500 --> 02:05:56,040
Did you have interaction
with Germans there?

2825
02:05:56,040 --> 02:05:57,620
Did I have any interaction?

2826
02:05:57,620 --> 02:06:00,200
The only time I had
interaction with Germans,

2827
02:06:00,200 --> 02:06:03,950
to be frank with
you, is I told you

2828
02:06:03,950 --> 02:06:08,496

about this particular
lieutenant.

2829
02:06:08,496 --> 02:06:10,170
You remember?

2830
02:06:10,170 --> 02:06:11,000
Mm-hmm.

2831
02:06:11,000 --> 02:06:14,390
Now, that lieutenant, he was--

2832
02:06:14,390 --> 02:06:18,580

2833
02:06:18,580 --> 02:06:21,902
I understood some Yiddish.

2834
02:06:21,902 --> 02:06:23,140
Right.

2835
02:06:23,140 --> 02:06:30,040
And that gave me some access to
speak to the German prisoners.

2836
02:06:30,040 --> 02:06:33,880
Because German and
Yiddish, you can make out

2837
02:06:33,880 --> 02:06:38,570
some of this stuff there.

2838
02:06:38,570 --> 02:06:44,920
So every time that a group
of prisoners came through,

2839
02:06:44,920 --> 02:06:48,010
he would call me to--

2840
02:06:48,010 --> 02:06:48,650
Talk to them.

2841

02:06:48,650 --> 02:06:52,060

No, he would want to know
certain information from them,

2842

02:06:52,060 --> 02:06:54,100

and he didn't have
anybody to ask.

2843

02:06:54,100 --> 02:06:58,390

So he would call me.

2844

02:06:58,390 --> 02:07:02,110

And the funny part of it, he
didn't understand one word

2845

02:07:02,110 --> 02:07:05,350

that I was saying,
the lieutenant.

2846

02:07:05,350 --> 02:07:08,920

But the prisoners certainly
knew that I was Jewish.

2847

02:07:08,920 --> 02:07:09,790

Really?

2848

02:07:09,790 --> 02:07:12,610

Oh, boy, did they.

2849

02:07:12,610 --> 02:07:14,140

How did that show itself?

2850

02:07:14,140 --> 02:07:15,250

How did they show it?

2851

02:07:15,250 --> 02:07:18,270

Because Yiddish and
German are close.

2852

02:07:18,270 --> 02:07:19,120

OK.

2853

02:07:19,120 --> 02:07:23,050

So they must have put
it together somehow.

2854

02:07:23,050 --> 02:07:25,070

Did they treat you
in a different way?

2855

02:07:25,070 --> 02:07:28,330

They didn't have any
access to treat me.

2856

02:07:28,330 --> 02:07:31,480

None whatsoever.

2857

02:07:31,480 --> 02:07:38,950

But while I was interpreting
for the lieutenant,

2858

02:07:38,950 --> 02:07:42,790

I saw the expression
on the prisoner's face.

2859

02:07:42,790 --> 02:07:46,320

He knew that I was Jewish.

2860

02:07:46,320 --> 02:07:47,160

You understand?

2861

02:07:47,160 --> 02:07:51,970

2862

02:07:51,970 --> 02:07:56,110

And you were in the
same town for the rest

2863

02:07:56,110 --> 02:08:01,090

of the time you were in
Germany, this small German town?

2864

02:08:01,090 --> 02:08:02,650

We were in the vicinity.

2865
02:08:02,650 --> 02:08:06,460
I mean, it was
pretty much the same.

2866
02:08:06,460 --> 02:08:06,960
Mm-hmm.

2867
02:08:06,960 --> 02:08:08,470
A known town, too.

2868
02:08:08,470 --> 02:08:10,150
A known town.

2869
02:08:10,150 --> 02:08:12,390
Maybe it's on Bill's iPhone.

2870
02:08:12,390 --> 02:08:13,540
[LAUGHTER]

2871
02:08:13,540 --> 02:08:15,010
Where was it?

2872
02:08:15,010 --> 02:08:16,270
We don't know.

2873
02:08:16,270 --> 02:08:19,390
He doesn't remember
where he was stationed.

2874
02:08:19,390 --> 02:08:20,603
But that's OK.

2875
02:08:20,603 --> 02:08:21,820
That's OK.

2876
02:08:21,820 --> 02:08:25,280
That's not a very significant
part of the story.

2877
02:08:25,280 --> 02:08:26,180

No.

2878
02:08:26,180 --> 02:08:29,710
So the letters that
you were writing home--

2879
02:08:29,710 --> 02:08:30,280
Yes.

2880
02:08:30,280 --> 02:08:33,880
--were the ones where you were
wounded, are those the ones

2881
02:08:33,880 --> 02:08:39,580
that you tried to smooth over
somewhat to your parents?

2882
02:08:39,580 --> 02:08:40,640
Sure.

2883
02:08:40,640 --> 02:08:41,380
Yeah.

2884
02:08:41,380 --> 02:08:42,880
Never discussed it.

2885
02:08:42,880 --> 02:08:45,090
Never put it in a letter at all.

2886
02:08:45,090 --> 02:08:46,870
OK.

2887
02:08:46,870 --> 02:08:49,400
I didn't want them to
know, they shouldn't

2888
02:08:49,400 --> 02:08:52,823
have to think about
that if I can avoid it.

2889
02:08:52,823 --> 02:08:53,323
Mm-hmm.

2890
02:08:53,323 --> 02:08:57,100

2891
02:08:57,100 --> 02:08:58,570
Is there anything
else you'd like

2892
02:08:58,570 --> 02:09:02,440
to add to what we spoke about
right now, about your service

2893
02:09:02,440 --> 02:09:03,920
and experiences in Germany?

2894
02:09:03,920 --> 02:09:06,750

2895
02:09:06,750 --> 02:09:08,500
You're talking
about after the war?

2896
02:09:08,500 --> 02:09:09,083
After the war.

2897
02:09:09,083 --> 02:09:09,635
Or before?

2898
02:09:09,635 --> 02:09:10,135
Any time.

2899
02:09:10,135 --> 02:09:11,340
Or during the war?

2900
02:09:11,340 --> 02:09:12,190
Either.

2901
02:09:12,190 --> 02:09:13,370
Both, either one?

2902
02:09:13,370 --> 02:09:13,920

Either one.

2903

02:09:13,920 --> 02:09:14,720

Either one.

2904

02:09:14,720 --> 02:09:18,770

Anything that you usually
mention that we didn't cover.

2905

02:09:18,770 --> 02:09:24,640

2906

02:09:24,640 --> 02:09:27,730

What was significant that I--

2907

02:09:27,730 --> 02:09:32,475

well, anything significant
would have to be during the--

2908

02:09:32,475 --> 02:09:33,100

During the war.

2909

02:09:33,100 --> 02:09:34,430

Combat.

2910

02:09:34,430 --> 02:09:36,280

During the--

2911

02:09:36,280 --> 02:09:38,440

Tell me about the
two Bronze Stars.

2912

02:09:38,440 --> 02:09:40,510

What are the circumstances?

2913

02:09:40,510 --> 02:09:43,190

2914

02:09:43,190 --> 02:09:46,520

Well, the one of them I
started to tell you about.

2915

02:09:46,520 --> 02:09:47,500

Mm-hmm.

2916

02:09:47,500 --> 02:09:54,270

The first one we had to go through that particular area.

2917

02:09:54,270 --> 02:09:56,665

In other words, the Germans were dug in,

2918

02:09:56,665 --> 02:09:58,343

in that particular area.

2919

02:09:58,343 --> 02:10:00,010

Was this the first skirmish you were in?

2920

02:10:00,010 --> 02:10:04,570

This was the one in Bliesbrucken, in February 16th.

2921

02:10:04,570 --> 02:10:07,170

Right, that one.

2922

02:10:07,170 --> 02:10:10,960

So that's the one that we lost.

2923

02:10:10,960 --> 02:10:13,750

Had quite a few injured because of the--

2924

02:10:13,750 --> 02:10:14,250

Mines.

2925

02:10:14,250 --> 02:10:15,730

The foot mines.

2926

02:10:15,730 --> 02:10:16,230

Yeah.

2927

02:10:16,230 --> 02:10:18,850
Yeah.

2928
02:10:18,850 --> 02:10:23,740
What was your role that
you won the Bronze Star?

2929
02:10:23,740 --> 02:10:25,410
What was the role
there, you mean?

2930
02:10:25,410 --> 02:10:25,910
Yeah.

2931
02:10:25,910 --> 02:10:30,010
Well, the role they is that
I had-- we got through.

2932
02:10:30,010 --> 02:10:31,220
It wasn't just me.

2933
02:10:31,220 --> 02:10:34,180
It was the other
seven in my group.

2934
02:10:34,180 --> 02:10:35,950
Because we were
the ones that got

2935
02:10:35,950 --> 02:10:39,580
through that particular area.

2936
02:10:39,580 --> 02:10:44,650
That was a big deal, because
it was the first skirmish

2937
02:10:44,650 --> 02:10:48,670
of any major proportions there.

2938
02:10:48,670 --> 02:10:54,910
In fact, I remember
vividly that when

2939

02:10:54,910 --> 02:10:58,510

the officers had to
tell us where we were

2940

02:10:58,510 --> 02:11:01,360

going the following night--

2941

02:11:01,360 --> 02:11:03,160

Mm-hmm.

2942

02:11:03,160 --> 02:11:05,170

--some of them were
very considerate.

2943

02:11:05,170 --> 02:11:07,150

You know, they
felt a little bad.

2944

02:11:07,150 --> 02:11:08,750

They didn't know
how many of them

2945

02:11:08,750 --> 02:11:11,960

were going to come back
and stuff like that.

2946

02:11:11,960 --> 02:11:18,070

So I remember vividly
they sat us in a room,

2947

02:11:18,070 --> 02:11:22,870

and they opened up
two bottles of scotch.

2948

02:11:22,870 --> 02:11:25,960

So that we could
calm our nerves.

2949

02:11:25,960 --> 02:11:27,960

You know, this is the
first time, remember.

2950

02:11:27,960 --> 02:11:30,910

The first time we
were in combat.

2951

02:11:30,910 --> 02:11:31,770

It's a big thing.

2952

02:11:31,770 --> 02:11:36,510

OK, so I remember 4 o'clock
in the morning is when.

2953

02:11:36,510 --> 02:11:40,570

The kick off spot was--
there was a railroad.

2954

02:11:40,570 --> 02:11:44,980

Tracks that went through
that particular area.

2955

02:11:44,980 --> 02:11:49,780

And the starting point
for us, is all our guys

2956

02:11:49,780 --> 02:11:55,730

had to line up on the railroad.

2957

02:11:55,730 --> 02:12:01,040

You know, just before, so we can
all get going at the same time.

2958

02:12:01,040 --> 02:12:01,540

I see.

2959

02:12:01,540 --> 02:12:02,523

Understand?

2960

02:12:02,523 --> 02:12:03,370

Yeah.

2961

02:12:03,370 --> 02:12:07,930

So I remember we're
standing there.

2962

02:12:07,930 --> 02:12:13,620

And all of the sudden, I see
certain some of us, though,

2963

02:12:13,620 --> 02:12:16,000

are all of a sudden they're
lying on the ground.

2964

02:12:16,000 --> 02:12:19,870

I don't know if that's
part of their situation,

2965

02:12:19,870 --> 02:12:20,870

that they're gonna line.

2966

02:12:20,870 --> 02:12:25,270

But I didn't realize the
Germans knew we were coming.

2967

02:12:25,270 --> 02:12:26,470

And they were firing.

2968

02:12:26,470 --> 02:12:29,240

2969

02:12:29,240 --> 02:12:34,780

I forgot the name of the
ammunition that lights up.

2970

02:12:34,780 --> 02:12:38,430

In other words, it lights up.

2971

02:12:38,430 --> 02:12:39,280

I don't know.

2972

02:12:39,280 --> 02:12:40,184

You don't know.

2973

02:12:40,184 --> 02:12:40,980

It's tracers.

2974

02:12:40,980 --> 02:12:41,528
Tracers?

2975
02:12:41,528 --> 02:12:42,570
Were they firing tracers?

2976
02:12:42,570 --> 02:12:43,980
Tracers, exactly.

2977
02:12:43,980 --> 02:12:46,810
Boy, you know a lot
about the German army.

2978
02:12:46,810 --> 02:12:50,386
No, somebody whispered
it to me in my ear.

2979
02:12:50,386 --> 02:12:50,886
Yeah?

2980
02:12:50,886 --> 02:12:51,386
Yeah.

2981
02:12:51,386 --> 02:12:55,740
Well, the idea is, they
were firing tracers.

2982
02:12:55,740 --> 02:13:00,750
And that's what caught
the American troops that

2983
02:13:00,750 --> 02:13:02,070
were standing there.

2984
02:13:02,070 --> 02:13:05,670
We were ready to go, to
start moving forward.

2985
02:13:05,670 --> 02:13:07,110
And some never even moved.

2986
02:13:07,110 --> 02:13:09,810

And some of them never moved.

2987

02:13:09,810 --> 02:13:10,920

And we thought--

2988

02:13:10,920 --> 02:13:13,230

I mean, I was certain
some of us thought,

2989

02:13:13,230 --> 02:13:17,370

you couldn't tell that they
were hit by ammunition and stuff

2990

02:13:17,370 --> 02:13:19,300

like that.

2991

02:13:19,300 --> 02:13:21,780

So that was a heck
of a beginning,

2992

02:13:21,780 --> 02:13:23,970

as far as that was concerned.

2993

02:13:23,970 --> 02:13:26,550

What about the
second Bronze Star?

2994

02:13:26,550 --> 02:13:28,710

What were the circumstances
surrounding that?

2995

02:13:28,710 --> 02:13:34,860

The second one was the one
in December or something.

2996

02:13:34,860 --> 02:13:38,610

That was the one on the
Battle of the Bulge.

2997

02:13:38,610 --> 02:13:40,170

Uh-huh.

2998

02:13:40,170 --> 02:13:42,420
The Battle of the
Bulge, that was

2999
02:13:42,420 --> 02:13:46,230
a very, very difficult thing.

3000
02:13:46,230 --> 02:13:50,190
Because the Germans,
as I told you,

3001
02:13:50,190 --> 02:13:52,590
they were putting
everything forward.

3002
02:13:52,590 --> 02:13:58,095
They knew, by the way, that this
is their last particular thrust

3003
02:13:58,095 --> 02:13:59,380
there.

3004
02:13:59,380 --> 02:13:59,880
Mm-hmm.

3005
02:13:59,880 --> 02:14:02,550

3006
02:14:02,550 --> 02:14:08,760
And our outfit, our particular
outfit was still together.

3007
02:14:08,760 --> 02:14:10,920
I mean, they never
broke us up, which

3008
02:14:10,920 --> 02:14:15,840
was a very good reason that
I wanted to stay with them.

3009
02:14:15,840 --> 02:14:23,490
And just moving the guys around,
I suppose, so they issue--

3010
02:14:23,490 --> 02:14:28,070
they awarded it to the
outfit, to the eight of us,

3011
02:14:28,070 --> 02:14:29,370
or the nine of us.

3012
02:14:29,370 --> 02:14:31,890

3013
02:14:31,890 --> 02:14:37,890
They issued the award.

3014
02:14:37,890 --> 02:14:41,490
So now let's kind of wrap up.

3015
02:14:41,490 --> 02:14:45,110
You come back to the
United States what date?

3016
02:14:45,110 --> 02:14:47,940
Can you remember?

3017
02:14:47,940 --> 02:14:53,470
1947 you said.

3018
02:14:53,470 --> 02:14:55,925
What date was that on?

3019
02:14:55,925 --> 02:14:56,425
What date?

3020
02:14:56,425 --> 02:15:00,310

3021
02:15:00,310 --> 02:15:02,200
Where did we end up?

3022
02:15:02,200 --> 02:15:04,240
What date were we at?

3023
02:15:04,240 --> 02:15:08,650
Well, we were talking
about the time you were

3024
02:15:08,650 --> 02:15:10,780
part of the occupation army.

3025
02:15:10,780 --> 02:15:11,360
Yes.

3026
02:15:11,360 --> 02:15:15,400
As more or less being
the function of police.

3027
02:15:15,400 --> 02:15:17,410
So that was May, really.

3028
02:15:17,410 --> 02:15:18,250
Mm-hmm.

3029
02:15:18,250 --> 02:15:20,810
That was in May.

3030
02:15:20,810 --> 02:15:22,900
May '45?

3031
02:15:22,900 --> 02:15:24,190
Yes.

3032
02:15:24,190 --> 02:15:27,550
No, wait a while.

3033
02:15:27,550 --> 02:15:28,270
Wait a while.

3034
02:15:28,270 --> 02:15:31,600
It was May '45.

3035
02:15:31,600 --> 02:15:33,190
Is when the war ends.

3036
02:15:33,190 --> 02:15:33,940
No.

3037
02:15:33,940 --> 02:15:35,890
Yes.

3038
02:15:35,890 --> 02:15:39,880
But April, April was the
issue where they were sent--

3039
02:15:39,880 --> 02:15:42,760
where I was in La Havre.

3040
02:15:42,760 --> 02:15:43,390
OK.

3041
02:15:43,390 --> 02:15:45,270
That had to be around then.

3042
02:15:45,270 --> 02:15:47,140
No, I think that
was a little later,

3043
02:15:47,140 --> 02:15:49,990
but that was more
closer to August.

3044
02:15:49,990 --> 02:15:53,290
Because that's when
the war in Japan ended.

3045
02:15:53,290 --> 02:15:54,760
The war in Japan?

3046
02:15:54,760 --> 02:15:56,780
Is that when they threw the--

3047
02:15:56,780 --> 02:15:57,280
August--

3048

02:15:57,280 --> 02:16:00,345
They wiped out-- it was August.

3049
02:16:00,345 --> 02:16:00,845
Mm-hmm.

3050
02:16:00,845 --> 02:16:02,770
Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

3051
02:16:02,770 --> 02:16:03,820
That was August.

3052
02:16:03,820 --> 02:16:04,420
That's right.

3053
02:16:04,420 --> 02:16:06,880
OK, OK.

3054
02:16:06,880 --> 02:16:09,415
So what was the question?

3055
02:16:09,415 --> 02:16:11,980

3056
02:16:11,980 --> 02:16:14,740
The question is, I wanted to get
a sense of when you came back

3057
02:16:14,740 --> 02:16:16,433
to the United States.

3058
02:16:16,433 --> 02:16:17,300
OK.

3059
02:16:17,300 --> 02:16:19,680
Was that 1947?

3060
02:16:19,680 --> 02:16:21,800
Yes, that was 1947.

3061
02:16:21,800 --> 02:16:22,300

And--

3062
02:16:22,300 --> 02:16:24,647
But the date I don't
remember specifically.

3063
02:16:24,647 --> 02:16:26,230
I shouldn't have
asked about the date,

3064
02:16:26,230 --> 02:16:28,300
because that's not an
easy thing to remember.

3065
02:16:28,300 --> 02:16:30,930
Yeah.

3066
02:16:30,930 --> 02:16:32,770
Do you remember
what time of year

3067
02:16:32,770 --> 02:16:37,040
it was, whether it was the fall,
the summer, things like that?

3068
02:16:37,040 --> 02:16:38,980
Were you discharged
at that point?

3069
02:16:38,980 --> 02:16:41,320
Yes, I was discharged.

3070
02:16:41,320 --> 02:16:43,400
Because they sent
us to that Camp

3071
02:16:43,400 --> 02:16:46,150
Shanks again for
discharge purposes.

3072
02:16:46,150 --> 02:16:47,750
Oh, OK.

3073

02:16:47,750 --> 02:16:48,250

You see.

3074

02:16:48,250 --> 02:16:51,160

It keeps figuring in
your story, doesn't it?

3075

02:16:51,160 --> 02:16:55,930

Well, that's the base
that they decided to use,

3076

02:16:55,930 --> 02:17:00,459

that the army started to
use that for that purpose.

3077

02:17:00,459 --> 02:17:05,500

When we left, we
left for Europe,

3078

02:17:05,500 --> 02:17:08,750

the idea is that that's
where they clothed us,

3079

02:17:08,750 --> 02:17:10,700

they gave us all the--

3080

02:17:10,700 --> 02:17:12,250

they used Camp Shanks.

3081

02:17:12,250 --> 02:17:16,629

That was a very central place
for anybody in the East,

3082

02:17:16,629 --> 02:17:20,844

you know, they left
from Camp Shanks.

3083

02:17:20,844 --> 02:17:26,510

And when you got
home to New York,

3084

02:17:26,510 --> 02:17:30,730

did your parents pepper you with questions about the things that

3085

02:17:30,730 --> 02:17:32,139
couldn't be written in letters?

3086

02:17:32,139 --> 02:17:33,370
Good question.

3087

02:17:33,370 --> 02:17:34,760
Very good question.

3088

02:17:34,760 --> 02:17:38,290
Because that's a story in itself.

3089

02:17:38,290 --> 02:17:42,070
They were expecting me, my parents.

3090

02:17:42,070 --> 02:17:46,150
But what I didn't expect is that she invited

3091

02:17:46,150 --> 02:17:49,410
the whole family of 20 people.

3092

02:17:49,410 --> 02:17:52,719
We were in the living room, and they were all--

3093

02:17:52,719 --> 02:17:55,480
she had all the chairs around.

3094

02:17:55,480 --> 02:18:00,790
And when I walked in there and we sat down,

3095

02:18:00,790 --> 02:18:03,820
not one person asked a question.

3096

02:18:03,820 --> 02:18:06,670

They kept staring at me.

3097
02:18:06,670 --> 02:18:07,270
Really?

3098
02:18:07,270 --> 02:18:09,200
Yeah, they kept staring at me.

3099
02:18:09,200 --> 02:18:11,590
Wow.

3100
02:18:11,590 --> 02:18:13,897
Like I was a--

3101
02:18:13,897 --> 02:18:15,230
I don't know how to describe it.

3102
02:18:15,230 --> 02:18:16,330
Can you picture that?

3103
02:18:16,330 --> 02:18:18,440
There was no conversation.

3104
02:18:18,440 --> 02:18:20,940
It was as quiet as can be.

3105
02:18:20,940 --> 02:18:24,340
And did that last the
whole time of the event?

3106
02:18:24,340 --> 02:18:25,660
Well, it wasn't an event.

3107
02:18:25,660 --> 02:18:26,650
It was just a--

3108
02:18:26,650 --> 02:18:27,730
Homecoming.

3109
02:18:27,730 --> 02:18:28,690
Homecoming.

3110
02:18:28,690 --> 02:18:31,150
Yeah, that's all.

3111
02:18:31,150 --> 02:18:32,560
Wow.

3112
02:18:32,560 --> 02:18:37,510
And I was going with
my wife at that time.

3113
02:18:37,510 --> 02:18:39,639
And she was invited there, too.

3114
02:18:39,639 --> 02:18:42,490
I wasn't married yet.

3115
02:18:42,490 --> 02:18:48,459
And when it came time to--

3116
02:18:48,459 --> 02:18:50,230
they started to
break up and go home,

3117
02:18:50,230 --> 02:18:55,160
they were there a long
time already, she went--

3118
02:18:55,160 --> 02:18:56,660
I remember she went--

3119
02:18:56,660 --> 02:19:00,230
she approached her
mother, and she

3120
02:19:00,230 --> 02:19:05,410
asked her mother permission,
could she stay there with me

3121
02:19:05,410 --> 02:19:07,070
yet.

3122
02:19:07,070 --> 02:19:10,820
That's how she was
brought out, you know?

3123
02:19:10,820 --> 02:19:14,750
So I remember that
very, very vividly.

3124
02:19:14,750 --> 02:19:19,160
Isn't it remarkable, these
little things stick with you?

3125
02:19:19,160 --> 02:19:21,120
You don't remember
the name of Munich,

3126
02:19:21,120 --> 02:19:23,150
but you remember a
little thing like that.

3127
02:19:23,150 --> 02:19:27,370

3128
02:19:27,370 --> 02:19:29,320
You got married?

3129
02:19:29,320 --> 02:19:33,100
Got married in--
yes, I got married.

3130
02:19:33,100 --> 02:19:38,139
That would be-- that
would be something, too.

3131
02:19:38,139 --> 02:19:41,440
I got married in January,
so how does that fit?

3132
02:19:41,440 --> 02:19:43,690
Well, was it January '47 or '48?

3133
02:19:43,690 --> 02:19:44,950

'47.

3134
02:19:44,950 --> 02:19:47,283
January '47.

3135
02:19:47,283 --> 02:19:48,950
Then maybe you came
home a little early.

3136
02:19:48,950 --> 02:19:50,135
Maybe you came home in '46.

3137
02:19:50,135 --> 02:19:53,950

3138
02:19:53,950 --> 02:19:54,930
OK.

3139
02:19:54,930 --> 02:20:00,720
Those are mysteries
that we will keep for--

3140
02:20:00,720 --> 02:20:01,410
Forever.

3141
02:20:01,410 --> 02:20:02,300
Yeah.

3142
02:20:02,300 --> 02:20:03,570
Forever.

3143
02:20:03,570 --> 02:20:08,310
I'm surprised that I can
even put things in place.

3144
02:20:08,310 --> 02:20:12,300
Some of these things,
to be frank with you.

3145
02:20:12,300 --> 02:20:13,740
I think you've done fantastic.

3146

02:20:13,740 --> 02:20:14,240

You've Put--

3147

02:20:14,240 --> 02:20:15,990

I mean, I really don't know how.

3148

02:20:15,990 --> 02:20:18,000

Because to be very
frank with you,

3149

02:20:18,000 --> 02:20:22,680

if I put my car keys down
somewheres in the house,

3150

02:20:22,680 --> 02:20:24,910

I have to think twice,
where did I put them.

3151

02:20:24,910 --> 02:20:25,725

So do I.

3152

02:20:25,725 --> 02:20:26,225

You, too?

3153

02:20:26,225 --> 02:20:26,940

So do I.

3154

02:20:26,940 --> 02:20:28,785

I feel better now.

3155

02:20:28,785 --> 02:20:29,360

[LAUGHTER]

3156

02:20:29,360 --> 02:20:34,320

So OK.

3157

02:20:34,320 --> 02:20:39,270

I think that we've concluded
the major part of our interview.

3158

02:20:39,270 --> 02:20:43,050

After that, I will ask you
to hold up a few photographs,

3159
02:20:43,050 --> 02:20:46,100
and we'll film the
photos and your medals.

3160
02:20:46,100 --> 02:20:51,270
And with that, I'll say this
concludes the United States

3161
02:20:51,270 --> 02:20:55,860
Holocaust Memorial Museum
interview with Mr. Vincent

3162
02:20:55,860 --> 02:21:03,810
Koch on February 22, 2017
in Boca Raton, Florida.

3163
02:21:03,810 --> 02:21:06,240
Thank you again.

3164
02:21:06,240 --> 02:21:07,350
You're very welcome.

3165
02:21:07,350 --> 02:21:08,000
OK.

3166
02:21:08,000 --> 02:21:09,060
You were a pleasure.

3167
02:21:09,060 --> 02:21:10,410
OK.

3168
02:21:10,410 --> 02:21:11,670
We're rolling.

3169
02:21:11,670 --> 02:21:12,360
OK.

3170
02:21:12,360 --> 02:21:16,370
Can you tell me what is

that that you're holding?

3171

02:21:16,370 --> 02:21:21,870

It's the Bronze Star award that
I got on the 16th of February.

3172

02:21:21,870 --> 02:21:26,640

That was the first
combat that I had.

3173

02:21:26,640 --> 02:21:30,990

And that was in Bliesbrucken.

3174

02:21:30,990 --> 02:21:31,560

Germany.

3175

02:21:31,560 --> 02:21:33,460

Germany.

3176

02:21:33,460 --> 02:21:34,170

Thank you.

3177

02:21:34,170 --> 02:21:35,920

Thank you very much.

3178

02:21:35,920 --> 02:21:38,890

Come more forward at
the top toward me.

3179

02:21:38,890 --> 02:21:40,430

Yeah, hold it straight.

3180

02:21:40,430 --> 02:21:40,930

Thank you.

3181

02:21:40,930 --> 02:21:41,430

Sorry.

3182

02:21:41,430 --> 02:21:43,140

Audio as well.

3183

02:21:43,140 --> 02:21:45,100
[INAUDIBLE]

3184
02:21:45,100 --> 02:21:46,920
Did you want [INAUDIBLE]

3185
02:21:46,920 --> 02:21:48,445
Yes, is it rolling?

3186
02:21:48,445 --> 02:21:49,360
Yeah, we're rolling.

3187
02:21:49,360 --> 02:21:50,050
OK.

3188
02:21:50,050 --> 02:21:54,910
Can you tell me, Mr. Koch,
what is this a photograph of?

3189
02:21:54,910 --> 02:21:58,355
These are two of my
closest associates.

3190
02:21:58,355 --> 02:21:59,230
What are their names?

3191
02:21:59,230 --> 02:22:02,560

3192
02:22:02,560 --> 02:22:06,580
One of them was Robach.

3193
02:22:06,580 --> 02:22:09,370
He's from Chicago.

3194
02:22:09,370 --> 02:22:14,320
And his profession
was, he was a cook.

3195
02:22:14,320 --> 02:22:16,750
And that was great, to
have a cook with you.

3196
02:22:16,750 --> 02:22:18,040
As your buddy, yeah.

3197
02:22:18,040 --> 02:22:18,880
Yes.

3198
02:22:18,880 --> 02:22:20,347
And which one are you?

3199
02:22:20,347 --> 02:22:22,180
Are you the one that's
standing in the back?

3200
02:22:22,180 --> 02:22:24,430
I'm the one that's
standing in the back.

3201
02:22:24,430 --> 02:22:25,620
OK.

3202
02:22:25,620 --> 02:22:26,620
I'm gonna stop a minute.

3203
02:22:26,620 --> 02:22:27,460
Please.

3204
02:22:27,460 --> 02:22:28,930
OK, I'm gonna repeat this one.

3205
02:22:28,930 --> 02:22:33,820
Tell me, who is in
this photograph.

3206
02:22:33,820 --> 02:22:34,320
Again.

3207
02:22:34,320 --> 02:22:34,820
Yeah.

3208
02:22:34,820 --> 02:22:36,323

Sergeant Robach.

3209
02:22:36,323 --> 02:22:36,990
Sergeant Robach.

3210
02:22:36,990 --> 02:22:38,560
From Chicago.

3211
02:22:38,560 --> 02:22:39,190
OK.

3212
02:22:39,190 --> 02:22:43,000
He was part of my outfit.

3213
02:22:43,000 --> 02:22:50,320
And by profession, he owned
a restaurant in Chicago.

3214
02:22:50,320 --> 02:22:55,240
And he used to
prepare kartoffels

3215
02:22:55,240 --> 02:22:57,700
for us when we were in combat.

3216
02:22:57,700 --> 02:23:00,370
Kartoffels are potatoes.

3217
02:23:00,370 --> 02:23:02,710
We would find the potatoes.

3218
02:23:02,710 --> 02:23:06,920
The Germans would
hide it in a coal bin.

3219
02:23:06,920 --> 02:23:07,420
Uh-huh.

3220
02:23:07,420 --> 02:23:09,670
And he would find them.

3221

02:23:09,670 --> 02:23:10,840
And he'd cook them up.

3222
02:23:10,840 --> 02:23:14,140
And he would make all kinds
of nice things with them.

3223
02:23:14,140 --> 02:23:16,000
So we loved him very much.

3224
02:23:16,000 --> 02:23:17,220
I can imagine.

3225
02:23:17,220 --> 02:23:19,090
And which one are you?

3226
02:23:19,090 --> 02:23:21,540
The one that's
standing, I suppose.

3227
02:23:21,540 --> 02:23:22,300
OK.

3228
02:23:22,300 --> 02:23:23,060
Thank you.

3229
02:23:23,060 --> 02:23:23,980
Sure.

3230
02:23:23,980 --> 02:23:25,690
This is my squad.

3231
02:23:25,690 --> 02:23:31,960
I was a sergeant over
these particular soldiers

3232
02:23:31,960 --> 02:23:35,290
in the 3rd Battalion.

3233
02:23:35,290 --> 02:23:36,430
OK.

3234
02:23:36,430 --> 02:23:41,190
Of the Company M.

3235
02:23:41,190 --> 02:23:42,550
OK.

3236
02:23:42,550 --> 02:23:46,300
And do you-- came from?

3237
02:23:46,300 --> 02:23:46,900
I do.

3238
02:23:46,900 --> 02:23:49,270
It's in the back of
one of these pictures.

3239
02:23:49,270 --> 02:23:50,170
That's it.

3240
02:23:50,170 --> 02:23:50,770
All right.

3241
02:23:50,770 --> 02:23:51,950
You see on the--

3242
02:23:51,950 --> 02:23:52,570
Yeah, I see.

3243
02:23:52,570 --> 02:23:57,130
It says Michigan, Kentucky, New
Jersey, Indiana, and Alabama.

3244
02:23:57,130 --> 02:23:57,700
Right.

3245
02:23:57,700 --> 02:24:02,500
And then kneeling left to right
is New York, Chicago, Chicago,

3246
02:24:02,500 --> 02:24:05,740
New Jersey, and California.

3247
02:24:05,740 --> 02:24:09,340
I knew you-- can I
say something, Bill?

3248
02:24:09,340 --> 02:24:10,090
Of course you can.

3249
02:24:10,090 --> 02:24:11,260
Yeah, yeah.

3250
02:24:11,260 --> 02:24:14,770
I knew you were gonna ask that
question, so I was prepared.

3251
02:24:14,770 --> 02:24:16,730
[LAUGHTER]

3252
02:24:16,730 --> 02:24:17,390
Thank you.

3253
02:24:17,390 --> 02:24:17,920
OK.

3254
02:24:17,920 --> 02:24:20,220
Thank you very much.