

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,570

2

00:00:06,570 --> 00:00:09,660

This is tape two,
side A, and we were

3

00:00:09,660 --> 00:00:13,340

talking about when you
first walked into the Dachau

4

00:00:13,340 --> 00:00:17,330

camp and some of thoughts--

5

00:00:17,330 --> 00:00:18,186

It was--

6

00:00:18,186 --> 00:00:19,020

--that you had.

7

00:00:19,020 --> 00:00:22,380

--it was no, no,
never in my life

8

00:00:22,380 --> 00:00:24,790

have I seen anything like that.

9

00:00:24,790 --> 00:00:27,960

And as a physician, you
see ugly things in life.

10

00:00:27,960 --> 00:00:33,930

And somehow you are used to that
because that's your profession.

11

00:00:33,930 --> 00:00:36,416

But I cannot really talk.

12

00:00:36,416 --> 00:00:40,570

Where is-- where
are the pictures?

13
00:00:40,570 --> 00:00:42,720
What did the others,
American soldiers say?

14
00:00:42,720 --> 00:00:43,720
What did you talk about?

15
00:00:43,720 --> 00:00:45,810
They were all outraged.

16
00:00:45,810 --> 00:00:47,760
They were outraged.

17
00:00:47,760 --> 00:00:51,600
First of all, as I
mentioned to you before,

18
00:00:51,600 --> 00:00:56,040
we already came from a camp of
a prisoner-of-war camp which was

19
00:00:56,040 --> 00:01:00,840
so horrendous so awful
that it was really--

20
00:01:00,840 --> 00:01:04,000

21
00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:07,300
we couldn't have been more
outraged about what happening.

22
00:01:07,300 --> 00:01:08,530
And then we went to Dachau.

23
00:01:08,530 --> 00:01:13,450
And it was just as
bad or maybe worse.

24
00:01:13,450 --> 00:01:16,540
But when you show--

25

00:01:16,540 --> 00:01:19,000

for instance, we went to the--

26

00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:21,780

to liberated the

American section,

27

00:01:21,780 --> 00:01:26,320

well, they might have had a,

let's say, a barrack, let's say

28

00:01:26,320 --> 00:01:28,420

like that living room.

29

00:01:28,420 --> 00:01:32,690

And you know, if you would

see floor, wooden floor here.

30

00:01:32,690 --> 00:01:33,610

Planks.

31

00:01:33,610 --> 00:01:37,420

I mean, well, they were wooden

floor about three or four

32

00:01:37,420 --> 00:01:38,080

sizes.

33

00:01:38,080 --> 00:01:40,700

And then they,

people who were sick,

34

00:01:40,700 --> 00:01:45,850

sick, badly-wounded people were

just thrown into these areas

35

00:01:45,850 --> 00:01:47,820

possibly to die.

36

00:01:47,820 --> 00:01:50,590

So we saw ugly things

before we went to Dachau.

37
00:01:50,590 --> 00:01:53,380
And they were all upset.

38
00:01:53,380 --> 00:01:55,630
And they were upset.

39
00:01:55,630 --> 00:02:03,380
And it was absolutely unreal.

40
00:02:03,380 --> 00:02:05,333
Were there nurses
there also with you?

41
00:02:05,333 --> 00:02:06,250
[? Beg your pardon? ?]

42
00:02:06,250 --> 00:02:07,480
Were there nurses with you?

43
00:02:07,480 --> 00:02:07,660
No.

44
00:02:07,660 --> 00:02:08,030
No.

45
00:02:08,030 --> 00:02:08,190
No.

46
00:02:08,190 --> 00:02:08,350
No.

47
00:02:08,350 --> 00:02:09,225
There were no nurses.

48
00:02:09,225 --> 00:02:12,250
The company had
just male personnel.

49
00:02:12,250 --> 00:02:17,590

No, no, It was a combat team, combat unit.

50
00:02:17,590 --> 00:02:21,970
We were not armed because medical units are not armed.

51
00:02:21,970 --> 00:02:23,770
What did some of the--

52
00:02:23,770 --> 00:02:26,110
do you remember what some of the survivors said to you?

53
00:02:26,110 --> 00:02:30,220
Did any of them have the strength to talk to you?

54
00:02:30,220 --> 00:02:32,590
I don't think we talked about it too much.

55
00:02:32,590 --> 00:02:34,660
Did you talk to the survivors?

56
00:02:34,660 --> 00:02:35,920
Oh, yes.

57
00:02:35,920 --> 00:02:37,750
What kind of things did they say to you?

58
00:02:37,750 --> 00:02:38,460
Do you remember?

59
00:02:38,460 --> 00:02:40,390
I don't remember too much.

60
00:02:40,390 --> 00:02:45,220
They were very, very happy to see us, of course.

61

00:02:45,220 --> 00:02:49,410

But I went, as a
matter of fact, to--

62

00:02:49,410 --> 00:02:53,480

they had what they call maybe
the headquarters of the camp.

63

00:02:53,480 --> 00:02:56,440

And the Germans were very
meticulous to write down

64

00:02:56,440 --> 00:02:59,410

the names of the
peoples, supposedly

65

00:02:59,410 --> 00:03:05,840

at least that they had long
books with names of the thing.

66

00:03:05,840 --> 00:03:07,450

And I just went
through the names,

67

00:03:07,450 --> 00:03:10,450

thinking that maybe I come
across somebody I know.

68

00:03:10,450 --> 00:03:11,950

Never did.

69

00:03:11,950 --> 00:03:18,770

And in that one corner was
a very, very forlorn Gypsy.

70

00:03:18,770 --> 00:03:22,640

And I think it was a Hungarian
Gypsy, as a matter of fact.

71

00:03:22,640 --> 00:03:27,500

At least he spoke a type of a
Hungarian that the Gypsies do.

72

00:03:27,500 --> 00:03:30,890

And he was telling me
that he feels awful.

73

00:03:30,890 --> 00:03:32,900

He said all the
Gypsies were killed.

74

00:03:32,900 --> 00:03:35,600

I said, well, how
come you weren't?

75

00:03:35,600 --> 00:03:38,180

He was a master forger.

76

00:03:38,180 --> 00:03:44,190

And he was kept alive because
he could forge anything anew.

77

00:03:44,190 --> 00:03:49,560

There were-- I don't have
too much recollection.

78

00:03:49,560 --> 00:03:52,830

There were a lot of people who
were milling around and moving

79

00:03:52,830 --> 00:03:56,690

around, feeling the
fact that they are free.

80

00:03:56,690 --> 00:03:58,820

But there were an awful
lot of bitter people there.

81

00:03:58,820 --> 00:04:00,500

And an awful lot of
people were looking

82

00:04:00,500 --> 00:04:02,510

for relatives or children.

83

00:04:02,510 --> 00:04:05,340

Mothers were frantically
looking for children.

84
00:04:05,340 --> 00:04:06,018
And then and--

85
00:04:06,018 --> 00:04:08,060
So these were men, women,
and children prisoners?

86
00:04:08,060 --> 00:04:10,610
They were man, woman, and
I didn't see any children.

87
00:04:10,610 --> 00:04:12,920
But there were man and
woman and young people,

88
00:04:12,920 --> 00:04:18,170
young women, too, in compounds.

89
00:04:18,170 --> 00:04:25,250
But I think we were
pretty much numb.

90
00:04:25,250 --> 00:04:26,765
Maybe if you see
these pictures, you

91
00:04:26,765 --> 00:04:28,580
will understand what
I'm talking about.

92
00:04:28,580 --> 00:04:31,060
How long did you stay there?

93
00:04:31,060 --> 00:04:37,260
We were-- the unit, the medical
and surgical technicians

94
00:04:37,260 --> 00:04:37,830
stayed there.

95

00:04:37,830 --> 00:04:40,080

I don't know where
they were [?bound?]----

96

00:04:40,080 --> 00:04:40,580

place.

97

00:04:40,580 --> 00:04:41,930

But they stayed there.

98

00:04:41,930 --> 00:04:44,120

But we were just
coming back and forth.

99

00:04:44,120 --> 00:04:46,520

And how many days
did you do that?

100

00:04:46,520 --> 00:04:49,640

Maybe for about a week or so.

101

00:04:49,640 --> 00:04:52,880

We got orders to move
down to Innsbruck.

102

00:04:52,880 --> 00:04:56,690

The war was still
on in certain part.

103

00:04:56,690 --> 00:04:59,870

Because I think that
the 23rd Division--

104

00:04:59,870 --> 00:05:02,760

was it the 23rd Division?

105

00:05:02,760 --> 00:05:06,120

But anyway, the American
division in Innsbruck

106

00:05:06,120 --> 00:05:11,540

or the outskirts of Innsbruck

was quite badly hurt.

107

00:05:11,540 --> 00:05:15,090

And we went down there
to give them assistance.

108

00:05:15,090 --> 00:05:18,260

And that wasn't so far
for many, you know.

109

00:05:18,260 --> 00:05:21,500

When you would go back at night
to where you were staying--

110

00:05:21,500 --> 00:05:22,490

No, we would go there.

111

00:05:22,490 --> 00:05:24,980

And we might have spend
nights occasionally.

112

00:05:24,980 --> 00:05:25,640

But I doubt.

113

00:05:25,640 --> 00:05:26,810

I don't remember.

114

00:05:26,810 --> 00:05:28,100

Yeah.

115

00:05:28,100 --> 00:05:30,895

Were you able to sleep at
night after being there

116

00:05:30,895 --> 00:05:31,520

during the day?

117

00:05:31,520 --> 00:05:32,702

I don't know whether I--

118

00:05:32,702 --> 00:05:36,146

119
00:05:36,146 --> 00:05:37,870
I don't know where
we were billeted.

120
00:05:37,870 --> 00:05:40,520

121
00:05:40,520 --> 00:05:42,950
Was it difficult
to sleep at night?

122
00:05:42,950 --> 00:05:44,310
No.

123
00:05:44,310 --> 00:05:45,617
You mean at Dachau?

124
00:05:45,617 --> 00:05:46,950
I don't think I slept in Dachau.

125
00:05:46,950 --> 00:05:48,830
No, no, no, when you--

126
00:05:48,830 --> 00:05:50,970
in the evening after
you left the camp

127
00:05:50,970 --> 00:05:52,970
and you would go back to
where you were staying,

128
00:05:52,970 --> 00:05:53,678
was it difficult?

129
00:05:53,678 --> 00:05:57,530
I don't believe--
I don't believe so.

130
00:05:57,530 --> 00:06:00,290
I think that we needed all
the sleep, what we can get.

131
00:06:00,290 --> 00:06:06,020
We did not-- we learned how to
sleep on the-- in a pup tent

132
00:06:06,020 --> 00:06:07,160
on the mountaintop.

133
00:06:07,160 --> 00:06:09,440
Were you dressed specially?

134
00:06:09,440 --> 00:06:10,470
Did you wear anything--

135
00:06:10,470 --> 00:06:10,970
No.

136
00:06:10,970 --> 00:06:11,803
--over your uniform?

137
00:06:11,803 --> 00:06:13,765
Were they concerned
about infection?

138
00:06:13,765 --> 00:06:16,320
No, no, we were in uniform.

139
00:06:16,320 --> 00:06:19,635
Yeah, but you didn't have any
special protective clothing

140
00:06:19,635 --> 00:06:20,510
because of infection?

141
00:06:20,510 --> 00:06:21,680
No.

142
00:06:21,680 --> 00:06:22,870
You don't.

143
00:06:22,870 --> 00:06:28,840

We weren't that spoiled, that giving any protective clothes.

144

00:06:28,840 --> 00:06:37,910

I do know that we had very nice parkas, aviation

145

00:06:37,910 --> 00:06:42,790

parkas, everybody there.

146

00:06:42,790 --> 00:06:46,690

Did you handle, did you physically

147

00:06:46,690 --> 00:06:48,940

handle the survivors?

148

00:06:48,940 --> 00:06:51,010

I had people who came to the--

149

00:06:51,010 --> 00:06:53,530

150

00:06:53,530 --> 00:06:57,420

to our [? sick hole ?] and take care of.

151

00:06:57,420 --> 00:06:57,952

Yes.

152

00:06:57,952 --> 00:06:59,560

Yeah.

153

00:06:59,560 --> 00:07:03,290

But the very sick one were in no position to go anywhere.

154

00:07:03,290 --> 00:07:03,790

Yeah.

155

00:07:03,790 --> 00:07:06,150

They were on a cot dying.

156
00:07:06,150 --> 00:07:08,780
But you had no restrictions
on handling these people?

157
00:07:08,780 --> 00:07:09,280
Oh, no.

158
00:07:09,280 --> 00:07:09,780
No.

159
00:07:09,780 --> 00:07:10,660
No.

160
00:07:10,660 --> 00:07:13,240
But it was an
abnormal situation.

161
00:07:13,240 --> 00:07:16,830

162
00:07:16,830 --> 00:07:20,370
So after the week was over,
then you continued on, you said?

163
00:07:20,370 --> 00:07:24,970

164
00:07:24,970 --> 00:07:29,620
I don't-- we continue what?

165
00:07:29,620 --> 00:07:30,500
I'm sorry.

166
00:07:30,500 --> 00:07:34,040
Well, I was asking you
where you continued on.

167
00:07:34,040 --> 00:07:37,110
But before I do that, was
there a chaplain with you?

168

00:07:37,110 --> 00:07:37,610

Yeah.

169

00:07:37,610 --> 00:07:40,010

And what was his
reaction to this?

170

00:07:40,010 --> 00:07:43,210

Well, he was a very
kind sorted man.

171

00:07:43,210 --> 00:07:46,600

And my god, he brought more
food to them every time we went.

172

00:07:46,600 --> 00:07:49,210

I don't know where he was able
to get all of these food from.

173

00:07:49,210 --> 00:07:52,840

He was getting food and
clothing or whatever he could.

174

00:07:52,840 --> 00:07:56,950

He did help on his
own way, not medically

175

00:07:56,950 --> 00:08:02,080

but as a human being who
was very much affected

176

00:08:02,080 --> 00:08:05,530

by what he saw,
even more so than I.

177

00:08:05,530 --> 00:08:07,030

Because he was not a physician.

178

00:08:07,030 --> 00:08:08,810

He does not see.

179

00:08:08,810 --> 00:08:11,110

Well, he saw the war, you know?

180
00:08:11,110 --> 00:08:17,000
But that's right.

181
00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:19,530
[? Dunson ?] came back from
the Russian with the troops.

182
00:08:19,530 --> 00:08:23,370
So they were-- he was with
them for a year before I was.

183
00:08:23,370 --> 00:08:25,222
He's 91.

184
00:08:25,222 --> 00:08:27,280
Just a couple of days
ago, I talked to him.

185
00:08:27,280 --> 00:08:30,390
And I think that he's
quite feeble, though.

186
00:08:30,390 --> 00:08:32,530
It's awful.

187
00:08:32,530 --> 00:08:35,980
I told him I'm going to send him
some pictures where I see him

188
00:08:35,980 --> 00:08:37,140
and I are together.

189
00:08:37,140 --> 00:08:39,390
And we were very close.

190
00:08:39,390 --> 00:08:43,730
He was-- we were very close
for a very good reason.

191
00:08:43,730 --> 00:08:46,240

We were the oldest
members of the group.

192
00:08:46,240 --> 00:08:48,555
You know, most of the
people were young draftees.

193
00:08:48,555 --> 00:08:50,230
You were 35.

194
00:08:50,230 --> 00:08:51,250
I was 35.

195
00:08:51,250 --> 00:08:53,510
He was 41.

196
00:08:53,510 --> 00:08:57,650
So we were the old
men of the group.

197
00:08:57,650 --> 00:09:00,610
And he's a wonderful man.

198
00:09:00,610 --> 00:09:04,750
As matter of fact,
[?Tibor?],, he went to the--

199
00:09:04,750 --> 00:09:06,940
well, anyway,
that's a long story.

200
00:09:06,940 --> 00:09:09,370
Now, what do you do
with these pictures?

201
00:09:09,370 --> 00:09:10,830
Oh, we'll talk about that later.

202
00:09:10,830 --> 00:09:12,080
You don't want to talk to now?

203
00:09:12,080 --> 00:09:13,060

I'm all talked out.

204

00:09:13,060 --> 00:09:14,320

Well, let's just finish up.

205

00:09:14,320 --> 00:09:15,550

And so you left Dachau.

206

00:09:15,550 --> 00:09:16,510

And where did you go?

207

00:09:16,510 --> 00:09:18,740

Innsbruck.

208

00:09:18,740 --> 00:09:19,240

And then?

209

00:09:19,240 --> 00:09:21,010

We were in Innsbruck
where they had

210

00:09:21,010 --> 00:09:27,100

an awful lot of
liberated people,

211

00:09:27,100 --> 00:09:30,430

displaced people, were
slave laborers and so on.

212

00:09:30,430 --> 00:09:33,010

There were oodles
and oodles of people

213

00:09:33,010 --> 00:09:37,620

who tried to find a place
where they can eat or live.

214

00:09:37,620 --> 00:09:42,070

Hospitals were jam
packed with the people.

215

00:09:42,070 --> 00:09:42,570

And--

216

00:09:42,570 --> 00:09:44,800

And what were your duties there?

217

00:09:44,800 --> 00:09:48,190

The unit was sent there
because of, as I mentioned,

218

00:09:48,190 --> 00:09:50,300

they had casualties
that they were helping.

219

00:09:50,300 --> 00:09:52,810

But I was--

220

00:09:52,810 --> 00:09:56,890

I got a special assignment.

221

00:09:56,890 --> 00:10:03,370

When they found out that I spoke
Hungarian, Italian, and German,

222

00:10:03,370 --> 00:10:09,040

they asked me to join an
investigating team which was

223

00:10:09,040 --> 00:10:14,950

investigating the Neurological
Institute of Innsbruck,

224

00:10:14,950 --> 00:10:20,400

where those people who are
also they are not German,

225

00:10:20,400 --> 00:10:24,900

Germans who were
suspected with anti--

226

00:10:24,900 --> 00:10:28,350

German or anti-Nazi
sympathies were

227

00:10:28,350 --> 00:10:32,490
sent to the institution
for a medical checkup.

228

00:10:32,490 --> 00:10:39,320
And they were examined,
and they discharged.

229

00:10:39,320 --> 00:10:42,540
And every one of them, the
people that we investigated,

230

00:10:42,540 --> 00:10:46,050
within a month died
with different ailments

231

00:10:46,050 --> 00:10:49,870
and conditions.

232

00:10:49,870 --> 00:10:54,030
And they were very anxious to
get the multilingual physician

233

00:10:54,030 --> 00:10:56,310
to investigate what they put.

234

00:10:56,310 --> 00:10:59,430
And I was there maybe about
six weeks or eight weeks

235

00:10:59,430 --> 00:11:03,870
with this team,
intelligent group.

236

00:11:03,870 --> 00:11:08,580
And maybe we
thought that we came

237

00:11:08,580 --> 00:11:11,900
to some kind of a understanding.

238

00:11:11,900 --> 00:11:13,650

And then I was transferred
to the Pacific.

239
00:11:13,650 --> 00:11:16,170

240
00:11:16,170 --> 00:11:20,340
But I never get to the
Pacific because the war

241
00:11:20,340 --> 00:11:21,360
ended eventually.

242
00:11:21,360 --> 00:11:24,270
But we went-- we were--

243
00:11:24,270 --> 00:11:28,770
the war was over by
then, the 8th of May.

244
00:11:28,770 --> 00:11:31,650
And we went to
Augsburg, Germany,

245
00:11:31,650 --> 00:11:35,430
where they retrained
us and refurnished us

246
00:11:35,430 --> 00:11:38,160
for the Pacific campaign.

247
00:11:38,160 --> 00:11:41,460
And we were there several weeks.

248
00:11:41,460 --> 00:11:45,780
And then we went to Arles where
we were for several weeks.

249
00:11:45,780 --> 00:11:49,170
But fortunately, the war
ended in the Pacific.

250

00:11:49,170 --> 00:11:57,250

And while my unit was sent
back and they rerouted,

251

00:11:57,250 --> 00:12:02,560

I was flown back from
Orly field, Paris.

252

00:12:02,560 --> 00:12:04,210

Six months later.

253

00:12:04,210 --> 00:12:05,500

Beg your pardon?

254

00:12:05,500 --> 00:12:08,060

Six months later.

255

00:12:08,060 --> 00:12:10,290

Six months later?

256

00:12:10,290 --> 00:12:12,742

You were trying to
find your family.

257

00:12:12,742 --> 00:12:14,950

Well, you had talked about
going to find your family.

258

00:12:14,950 --> 00:12:16,367

I didn't find them
[?my family?].

259

00:12:16,367 --> 00:12:18,130

Right.

260

00:12:18,130 --> 00:12:25,820

But that's right, they
transferred them sooner back

261

00:12:25,820 --> 00:12:27,170

to the States.

262

00:12:27,170 --> 00:12:30,230
And I was detached from
the unit and assigned

263
00:12:30,230 --> 00:12:35,390
to, oh, different places.

264
00:12:35,390 --> 00:12:37,130
I remember I was in Marseilles.

265
00:12:37,130 --> 00:12:39,830
How did I get to Marseilles?

266
00:12:39,830 --> 00:12:42,080
My classification
in the army was

267
00:12:42,080 --> 00:12:45,680
3108, which is obstetrician.

268
00:12:45,680 --> 00:12:49,670
And at that time, when
the war in Europe was over

269
00:12:49,670 --> 00:12:54,290
and they were all sending
troops to the Pacific,

270
00:12:54,290 --> 00:12:58,430
a great many nurses
and a great many WACs,

271
00:12:58,430 --> 00:13:01,850
a great many female
personnel who

272
00:13:01,850 --> 00:13:08,760
already had enough of the
European war got pregnant.

273
00:13:08,760 --> 00:13:11,360
And one place I had
the job to establish

274
00:13:11,360 --> 00:13:13,040
whether they were
pregnant or not

275
00:13:13,040 --> 00:13:15,470
so they could be sent home
and discharged from the army.

276
00:13:15,470 --> 00:13:20,260
People were getting pregnant
to get out of the army.

277
00:13:20,260 --> 00:13:23,270
That was in Marseilles.

278
00:13:23,270 --> 00:13:25,070
In Marseilles, I also
had a whole group

279
00:13:25,070 --> 00:13:30,020
of people who came down
with venereal diseases.

280
00:13:30,020 --> 00:13:32,330
And that was the first
time we used penicillin

281
00:13:32,330 --> 00:13:35,260
because penicillin
was not permitted--

282
00:13:35,260 --> 00:13:37,700
was not used by the
civilian population.

283
00:13:37,700 --> 00:13:40,420
The army used it.

284
00:13:40,420 --> 00:13:43,100
We gave them an
injection of penicillin

285

00:13:43,100 --> 00:13:45,710
every three hours for six days.

286

00:13:45,710 --> 00:13:47,690
And by golly, that cure them.

287

00:13:47,690 --> 00:13:50,690
They never again get
another venereal disease.

288

00:13:50,690 --> 00:13:55,550
But we had to put them into
jails or restricted areas

289

00:13:55,550 --> 00:13:57,530
because they wanted to escape.

290

00:13:57,530 --> 00:14:00,740
It was a painful experience,
every three hours,

291

00:14:00,740 --> 00:14:03,080
day and night, for six weeks.

292

00:14:03,080 --> 00:14:07,010
That's a high price to pay
for a venereal that disease.

293

00:14:07,010 --> 00:14:10,940
Anyway that was-- You
know what the trouble is,

294

00:14:10,940 --> 00:14:15,470
that so many of these things
are a little bit hazy.

295

00:14:15,470 --> 00:14:16,250
It's 50 years.

296

00:14:16,250 --> 00:14:22,130
Especially when nothing
important happened there,

297
00:14:22,130 --> 00:14:24,250
important at the time.

298
00:14:24,250 --> 00:14:25,250
But--

299
00:14:25,250 --> 00:14:27,180
When did you come back
to the United States?

300
00:14:27,180 --> 00:14:30,650
In the fall of '45.

301
00:14:30,650 --> 00:14:31,880
And then just--

302
00:14:31,880 --> 00:14:38,660
Then I was assigned to
Fort Devens, Fort Devens.

303
00:14:38,660 --> 00:14:41,900
And after Fort
Devens was closed,

304
00:14:41,900 --> 00:14:44,920
I was at Camp
Campbell, Kentucky,

305
00:14:44,920 --> 00:14:47,150
when they found out that
I had too many points

306
00:14:47,150 --> 00:14:49,130
to be kept in the army.

307
00:14:49,130 --> 00:14:53,503
So I sit there for a
month to be discharged.

308
00:14:53,503 --> 00:14:54,920
And they sent me

back to Fort Dix.

309

00:14:54,920 --> 00:14:55,730

And I was discharged.

310

00:14:55,730 --> 00:14:56,230

Discharged.

311

00:14:56,230 --> 00:14:58,070

And then you settled

where after the war?

312

00:14:58,070 --> 00:15:02,645

After the war, I settled

in Queens Village--

313

00:15:02,645 --> 00:15:03,480

In New York.

314

00:15:03,480 --> 00:15:05,780

--where I open up an office.

315

00:15:05,780 --> 00:15:07,370

What kind of practice

did you have?

316

00:15:07,370 --> 00:15:10,370

I did a general

practice emphasizing

317

00:15:10,370 --> 00:15:13,550

in those days obstetrics.

318

00:15:13,550 --> 00:15:17,141

And of course, we were very

happy to get whatever we could.

319

00:15:17,141 --> 00:15:20,170

We lived in a home, small

home with an office.

320

00:15:20,170 --> 00:15:23,060

And my wife was the nurse.

321

00:15:23,060 --> 00:15:26,290

And we were--

322

00:15:26,290 --> 00:15:34,390

I had a-- my son was

born April the 3rd.

323

00:15:34,390 --> 00:15:37,700

And I did not know he

was born until May.

324

00:15:37,700 --> 00:15:38,750

What year was this?

325

00:15:38,750 --> 00:15:41,640

In '45-- I was still overseas.

326

00:15:41,640 --> 00:15:44,810

As a matter of fact, I saw him

close when he was almost a year

327

00:15:44,810 --> 00:15:46,490

old.

328

00:15:46,490 --> 00:15:52,832

But I was in Innsbruck when I

found out that Paul was born.

329

00:15:52,832 --> 00:15:55,838

So you have one son?

330

00:15:55,838 --> 00:15:59,890

I-- then a couple of years

later, I had another son.

331

00:15:59,890 --> 00:16:02,840

And a couple of years

later, I had another son.

332

00:16:02,840 --> 00:16:07,690

And then we didn't have
any sons after that.

333
00:16:07,690 --> 00:16:09,140
So one was born in '45.

334
00:16:09,140 --> 00:16:11,270
One was born in '47.

335
00:16:11,270 --> 00:16:15,260
And the '49, the young
fellow who was born in '49

336
00:16:15,260 --> 00:16:17,250
is responsible for
this interview.

337
00:16:17,250 --> 00:16:19,550
And your sons names
are Paul and--

338
00:16:19,550 --> 00:16:23,285
Paul, Steven, and Clinton.

339
00:16:23,285 --> 00:16:24,440
Mhm.

340
00:16:24,440 --> 00:16:26,060
Clinton is the--

341
00:16:26,060 --> 00:16:27,760
Clinton was my wife's--

342
00:16:27,760 --> 00:16:30,290
my father-in-law's name.

343
00:16:30,290 --> 00:16:32,420
Paul was my brother's
name, Paul William.

344
00:16:32,420 --> 00:16:34,955

345
00:16:34,955 --> 00:16:38,591
And Steven Ward--

346
00:16:38,591 --> 00:16:39,920
We just liked the name Steven.

347
00:16:39,920 --> 00:16:41,230
Just Steven Ward.

348
00:16:41,230 --> 00:16:43,180
Ward was my maiden name.

349
00:16:43,180 --> 00:16:46,000
Before we end, I just
wanted to ask you just a few

350
00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:48,170
more questions.

351
00:16:48,170 --> 00:16:50,153
Do you still think
about your experience

352
00:16:50,153 --> 00:16:51,070
that you went through?

353
00:16:51,070 --> 00:16:53,160
I tried to forget it
as much as I could.

354
00:16:53,160 --> 00:16:57,450
And I did not look at these
pictures for many, many years.

355
00:16:57,450 --> 00:17:00,190
And this last week, ever
since this episode--

356
00:17:00,190 --> 00:17:02,700
I gave these pictures to my son.

357

00:17:02,700 --> 00:17:05,530

And when he called me up that
you are going to come out,

358

00:17:05,530 --> 00:17:08,109

I ask him to return it to me.

359

00:17:08,109 --> 00:17:10,069

And I got it yesterday.

360

00:17:10,069 --> 00:17:14,199

And I haven't been able
to take my eye off.

361

00:17:14,199 --> 00:17:16,119

And today I went
over there and had

362

00:17:16,119 --> 00:17:18,160

enlarged so I can see better.

363

00:17:18,160 --> 00:17:21,700

As I said, my eyesight
ain't so good.

364

00:17:21,700 --> 00:17:25,869

Are there any sounds or
any smells or anything that

365

00:17:25,869 --> 00:17:28,420

still stay with you after all
these years, that remind you?

366

00:17:28,420 --> 00:17:30,730

Well, it was a very
interesting situation.

367

00:17:30,730 --> 00:17:34,900

In spite of the fact that
there were so many people dead,

368

00:17:34,900 --> 00:17:37,800

it was not too--

369

00:17:37,800 --> 00:17:39,970

well, of course, it was cold.

370

00:17:39,970 --> 00:17:45,010

You would expect a great deal
of dead smell for miles away.

371

00:17:45,010 --> 00:17:48,970

And for some reason
or other, we were only

372

00:17:48,970 --> 00:17:53,410

amazed that we saw so many
dead ones, dead people there.

373

00:17:53,410 --> 00:17:57,730

And they did not had
the smell of the dead.

374

00:17:57,730 --> 00:18:02,290

My explanation was that the
inmates were so starved,

375

00:18:02,290 --> 00:18:05,800

skin and bone, that they didn't
have enough flesh and fat

376

00:18:05,800 --> 00:18:12,460

to have these odors of normally
you find with people who are

377

00:18:12,460 --> 00:18:15,100

lying around for a day or-- they
couldn't have possibly cleaned

378

00:18:15,100 --> 00:18:16,420

them up more than--

379

00:18:16,420 --> 00:18:20,710

it took a long time, quite
awhile to just to dispose

380
00:18:20,710 --> 00:18:21,850
of the dead body.

381
00:18:21,850 --> 00:18:25,270
I don't even know how
they disposed of them.

382
00:18:25,270 --> 00:18:29,800
Do you think this experience
changed you in any way?

383
00:18:29,800 --> 00:18:32,380
In what way?

384
00:18:32,380 --> 00:18:33,130
Do you feel that--

385
00:18:33,130 --> 00:18:36,640
I was a nice guy before,
and I am a nice guy after.

386
00:18:36,640 --> 00:18:40,840
Do you feel that your
age was a help to you?

387
00:18:40,840 --> 00:18:44,100
I don't think that
I gave too much--

388
00:18:44,100 --> 00:18:45,300
In coping with what you saw?

389
00:18:45,300 --> 00:18:45,820
--thing.

390
00:18:45,820 --> 00:18:51,070
I was very, very perturbed
when I was a doctor.

391
00:18:51,070 --> 00:18:53,240
I was two places

where I was perturbed,

392

00:18:53,240 --> 00:18:57,010

at Heppenheim, where I saw
the prisoner-of-war hospital,

393

00:18:57,010 --> 00:18:59,620

emotionally very much affected.

394

00:18:59,620 --> 00:19:04,390

And Dachau was a very,
very disturbing experience.

395

00:19:04,390 --> 00:19:08,440

Somehow you couldn't
understand how anything like

396

00:19:08,440 --> 00:19:10,880

that one could have happened.

397

00:19:10,880 --> 00:19:13,486

And if it did happen,
why did it happen?

398

00:19:13,486 --> 00:19:19,930

You know, somehow you started
to question God's way.

399

00:19:19,930 --> 00:19:24,110

How can God permit these things?

400

00:19:24,110 --> 00:19:26,050

Of course, that was
not the question

401

00:19:26,050 --> 00:19:29,260

that I asked the
chaplain because he

402

00:19:29,260 --> 00:19:30,880

would have had an answer.

403

00:19:30,880 --> 00:19:33,330

But he was just as
disturbed as I was.

404

00:19:33,330 --> 00:19:35,410

It was a disturbing experience.

405

00:19:35,410 --> 00:19:37,960

Did it make you more
religious or less religious

406

00:19:37,960 --> 00:19:39,430

seeing what you saw?

407

00:19:39,430 --> 00:19:43,220

I don't think-- I think that
less religious, not more.

408

00:19:43,220 --> 00:19:49,540

Never-- may I just
not talk anymore?

409

00:19:49,540 --> 00:19:52,450

Is there any message
that you want

410

00:19:52,450 --> 00:19:54,400

to leave to your
children or grandchildren

411

00:19:54,400 --> 00:19:56,120

before we end, anything special?

412

00:19:56,120 --> 00:19:58,000

I did leave all my messages.

413

00:19:58,000 --> 00:20:04,000

I wrote a little, a few pages
already two or three years

414

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:09,330

ago in which I pretty much
thought about my life.

415
00:20:09,330 --> 00:20:09,970
Wonderful.

416
00:20:09,970 --> 00:20:13,400
And as I told you
that my youngest son,

417
00:20:13,400 --> 00:20:21,420
who is responsible for all
of these interviews, he--

418
00:20:21,420 --> 00:20:23,530
we used to go on long walks.

419
00:20:23,530 --> 00:20:25,900
And he had a tape
recorder and taped

420
00:20:25,900 --> 00:20:27,430
what we were talking about.

421
00:20:27,430 --> 00:20:30,850
And one of these
days, he threatened me

422
00:20:30,850 --> 00:20:34,240
that he is going to put it--

423
00:20:34,240 --> 00:20:36,520
write it up for--

424
00:20:36,520 --> 00:20:42,524
he felt quite strongly
that my life should have--

425
00:20:42,524 --> 00:20:47,590
should be known to my
children or grandchildren.

426
00:20:47,590 --> 00:20:50,770
Did I say anything too much?

427
00:20:50,770 --> 00:20:52,398
I don't--

428
00:20:52,398 --> 00:20:54,440
Have you ever been back
to Germany since the war?

429
00:20:54,440 --> 00:20:55,690
No, ma'am.

430
00:20:55,690 --> 00:20:59,410
Not only I didn't go
back, I wouldn't go back.

431
00:20:59,410 --> 00:21:00,940
Why wouldn't you go back?

432
00:21:00,940 --> 00:21:07,540
Possibly would bring back
ugly memories, and I just--

433
00:21:07,540 --> 00:21:12,760
I never thought I would dislike
anything as much as I do.

434
00:21:12,760 --> 00:21:16,810
I just don't want anything
to do with Germany.

435
00:21:16,810 --> 00:21:20,110
I never, never, ever bought
a German product since.

436
00:21:20,110 --> 00:21:22,030
I just wouldn't buy it.

437
00:21:22,030 --> 00:21:24,450
She then said buy German car.

438
00:21:24,450 --> 00:21:26,280
I would never do it.

439

00:21:26,280 --> 00:21:30,340

It just a resentment that
possibly generated at the time

440

00:21:30,340 --> 00:21:31,530

when I was in Germany.

441

00:21:31,530 --> 00:21:38,800

And you just-- well, I'm
not a vindictive person,

442

00:21:38,800 --> 00:21:40,030

but I just don't--

443

00:21:40,030 --> 00:21:42,340

I just wouldn't
feel free with it.

444

00:21:42,340 --> 00:21:45,370

I don't have the same
feeling about Japanese,

445

00:21:45,370 --> 00:21:47,290

possibly because I
never been in Japan.

446

00:21:47,290 --> 00:21:49,900

And I'm quite sure they
were people who are--

447

00:21:49,900 --> 00:21:53,980

wouldn't do anything with Japan,
looking through the atrocities

448

00:21:53,980 --> 00:21:55,950

that they've committed.

449

00:21:55,950 --> 00:22:00,120

It's just one of those
things I would not.

450

00:22:00,120 --> 00:22:03,220

I'm happy that my wife
is not of German origin.

451

00:22:03,220 --> 00:22:04,000

[LAUGHS]

452

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:07,380

When you were in Dachau, did
you walk around the camp at all?

453

00:22:07,380 --> 00:22:08,280

Oh, yes, quite a bit.

454

00:22:08,280 --> 00:22:08,540

And--

455

00:22:08,540 --> 00:22:09,170

Quite a bit.

456

00:22:09,170 --> 00:22:11,235

You saw other parts of the camp?

457

00:22:11,235 --> 00:22:12,110

What other parts of--

458

00:22:12,110 --> 00:22:13,840

I saw quite a bit of the--

459

00:22:13,840 --> 00:22:15,490

What did you see?

460

00:22:15,490 --> 00:22:20,970

People who were
trying to feel what--

461

00:22:20,970 --> 00:22:24,700

how it is to be free again.

462

00:22:24,700 --> 00:22:30,120

A great many of them were
absolutely elated, just--

463
00:22:30,120 --> 00:22:32,410
and stunned.

464
00:22:32,410 --> 00:22:34,530
And they couldn't eat, you know.

465
00:22:34,530 --> 00:22:35,560
And obviously.

466
00:22:35,560 --> 00:22:37,000
They were starved.

467
00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:39,730
They were starved to death.

468
00:22:39,730 --> 00:22:46,180
And they were just--

469
00:22:46,180 --> 00:22:48,220
there were just
people walking around.

470
00:22:48,220 --> 00:22:55,350
They were numb, just
little informations.

471
00:22:55,350 --> 00:23:01,200
They were not in a position
or could be in a position to--

472
00:23:01,200 --> 00:23:04,260
they were very happy
to see the Americans.

473
00:23:04,260 --> 00:23:06,720
And they were
surprised when I talked

474
00:23:06,720 --> 00:23:10,710
Hungarian to the Hungarians
and German to the Germans

475
00:23:10,710 --> 00:23:12,870
and Italian to the
Italians, because they were

476
00:23:12,870 --> 00:23:15,090
all different things there.

477
00:23:15,090 --> 00:23:17,680
What other structures
did you see?

478
00:23:17,680 --> 00:23:18,180
Structures?

479
00:23:18,180 --> 00:23:21,630
What other buildings
or structures did you--

480
00:23:21,630 --> 00:23:22,460
We saw the--

481
00:23:22,460 --> 00:23:25,960
I have a picture
of the crematorium.

482
00:23:25,960 --> 00:23:26,460
And--

483
00:23:26,460 --> 00:23:29,052
Did you know what that was,
those were, when you saw them?

484
00:23:29,052 --> 00:23:30,510
We know the
crematorium, of course.

485
00:23:30,510 --> 00:23:33,480
There were bodies
outside, just as much

486
00:23:33,480 --> 00:23:36,090

as everybody is outside
the places where

487
00:23:36,090 --> 00:23:39,690
they get the little gas.

488
00:23:39,690 --> 00:23:43,960
What I did not believe,
one of the story was,

489
00:23:43,960 --> 00:23:47,490
what I did not understand,
how come that people did not

490
00:23:47,490 --> 00:23:50,440
know what was going on?

491
00:23:50,440 --> 00:23:52,890
I still don't know.

492
00:23:52,890 --> 00:23:55,080
But one of them
said that there are

493
00:23:55,080 --> 00:23:57,420
very few people knew
about the crematoriums,

494
00:23:57,420 --> 00:23:59,680
if they knew it at all.

495
00:23:59,680 --> 00:24:01,320
According to the--

496
00:24:01,320 --> 00:24:02,020
God bless you.

497
00:24:02,020 --> 00:24:02,520
Thank you.

498
00:24:02,520 --> 00:24:05,100
According to the information

at that time was,

499

00:24:05,100 --> 00:24:08,160
which I did not
believe to be true,

500

00:24:08,160 --> 00:24:13,320
was that the crematorium
was build by Polish priests.

501

00:24:13,320 --> 00:24:17,040
And every one of them was
killed so they would not

502

00:24:17,040 --> 00:24:18,690
spread the rumors.

503

00:24:18,690 --> 00:24:20,880
Now that was a rumor which
stayed with me for all

504

00:24:20,880 --> 00:24:24,900
these many years until
about two or three years

505

00:24:24,900 --> 00:24:28,840
after we have been here, I
read Michener's book on Poland.

506

00:24:28,840 --> 00:24:30,810
Did you read that?

507

00:24:30,810 --> 00:24:33,770
And Michener book on Poland
mentions that episode,

508

00:24:33,770 --> 00:24:37,140
that the crematorium was
built by Polish priest.

509

00:24:37,140 --> 00:24:39,520
And I said I never
heard that one before.

510
00:24:39,520 --> 00:24:43,120
And I would find it very
difficult to comprehend.

511
00:24:43,120 --> 00:24:44,340
I don't know who built it.

512
00:24:44,340 --> 00:24:47,040
But whoever built the
crematorium I'm sure

513
00:24:47,040 --> 00:24:50,550
were destroyed because nobody
knew that crematorium sure

514
00:24:50,550 --> 00:24:53,340
existed there.

515
00:24:53,340 --> 00:24:55,100
Nobody knew.

516
00:24:55,100 --> 00:24:58,110
And I don't know why
they didn't know it.

517
00:24:58,110 --> 00:25:01,930
They must have known what
the activity was there.

518
00:25:01,930 --> 00:25:05,580
Already people were so
lethargic at the time

519
00:25:05,580 --> 00:25:10,095
when we get there anyway
that they gave up fighting.

520
00:25:10,095 --> 00:25:13,540

521
00:25:13,540 --> 00:25:15,100

I don't understand.

522

00:25:15,100 --> 00:25:20,830

We are talking about
unnatural times and people

523

00:25:20,830 --> 00:25:24,430

who lived an unnatural life.

524

00:25:24,430 --> 00:25:26,650

One little old man
who was telling me,

525

00:25:26,650 --> 00:25:29,860

and I think in
Hungarian, telling me

526

00:25:29,860 --> 00:25:35,070

that, you know what the
biggest, the saddest thing is?

527

00:25:35,070 --> 00:25:38,430

I said, well, it's
too many things.

528

00:25:38,430 --> 00:25:41,850

He said, the saddest thing
is that the very nice people

529

00:25:41,850 --> 00:25:42,900

did not survive.

530

00:25:42,900 --> 00:25:45,330

They just died.

531

00:25:45,330 --> 00:25:48,810

And people who survived,
so many of them

532

00:25:48,810 --> 00:25:53,430

survived by on mere
guts or whatever it is.

533

00:25:53,430 --> 00:25:55,530

And they are not
the nicest people.

534

00:25:55,530 --> 00:25:57,560

The nicest people died.

535

00:25:57,560 --> 00:26:00,732

And some of these survivors
might not be so nice.

536

00:26:00,732 --> 00:26:02,107

As a matter of
fact, he said, you

537

00:26:02,107 --> 00:26:05,460

know that we killed
some of these kapos?

538

00:26:05,460 --> 00:26:09,180

Kapos were people who were in
charge of a group of people,

539

00:26:09,180 --> 00:26:11,430

[INAUDIBLE].

540

00:26:11,430 --> 00:26:14,100

Some of them were killed
by their own people,

541

00:26:14,100 --> 00:26:15,117

if it is true.

542

00:26:15,117 --> 00:26:16,200

And then I don't believe--

543

00:26:16,200 --> 00:26:19,140

don't have any doubt
that that was true.

544

00:26:19,140 --> 00:26:20,640

That was a true story.

545

00:26:20,640 --> 00:26:22,410

Anyway, too many
things happened.

546

00:26:22,410 --> 00:26:27,300

Were the-- your other soldiers,
the other American soldiers you

547

00:26:27,300 --> 00:26:31,620

were with at the time
in Dachau, were you--

548

00:26:31,620 --> 00:26:34,858

were they a support to you
and you a support to them

549

00:26:34,858 --> 00:26:35,400

at this time?

550

00:26:35,400 --> 00:26:37,530

Actually, we were pretty much--

551

00:26:37,530 --> 00:26:40,230

I don't think we talked too
much about except we were-- we

552

00:26:40,230 --> 00:26:43,260

all agreed that it's
awful and terrible.

553

00:26:43,260 --> 00:26:48,250

But I don't think that anybody
really talked about it.

554

00:26:48,250 --> 00:26:50,820

And when you left,
did your superiors

555

00:26:50,820 --> 00:26:54,150

ask you about the experience?

556

00:26:54,150 --> 00:26:56,760
I was never questioned about it.

557
00:26:56,760 --> 00:27:01,700
There were thousands
of people there yet.

558
00:27:01,700 --> 00:27:03,150
It was not a small camp.

559
00:27:03,150 --> 00:27:05,160
It was a huge camp.

560
00:27:05,160 --> 00:27:12,600
And it was a totally
abnormal atmosphere,

561
00:27:12,600 --> 00:27:16,830
that people were
just about surviving.

562
00:27:16,830 --> 00:27:19,805
That was not the time that
they could philosophy or--

563
00:27:19,805 --> 00:27:23,310

564
00:27:23,310 --> 00:27:26,220
they were just
very likely guilty,

565
00:27:26,220 --> 00:27:29,520
that they felt guilty that
they were the one who survived

566
00:27:29,520 --> 00:27:34,578
and that so many of the people
who should have survived died.

567
00:27:34,578 --> 00:27:35,370
Do you think what--

568

00:27:35,370 --> 00:27:36,650

Am I explaining myself?

569

00:27:36,650 --> 00:27:37,150

Yes.

570

00:27:37,150 --> 00:27:37,650

Yes.

571

00:27:37,650 --> 00:27:41,370

Do you think what you
went through affected you

572

00:27:41,370 --> 00:27:44,770

as a doctor later on in life.

573

00:27:44,770 --> 00:27:45,810

I never thought of it.

574

00:27:45,810 --> 00:27:47,070

I think that I am--

575

00:27:47,070 --> 00:27:48,180

I think that--

576

00:27:48,180 --> 00:27:49,510

I don't think that any of--

577

00:27:49,510 --> 00:27:52,030

578

00:27:52,030 --> 00:27:55,500

I wanted to forget the
war as fast as I could.

579

00:27:55,500 --> 00:27:59,550

And I did a pretty good job on
it until very, very recently,

580

00:27:59,550 --> 00:28:02,070

with this.

581
00:28:02,070 --> 00:28:06,530
I haven't talked
about it so much ever.

582
00:28:06,530 --> 00:28:09,305
Well, thank you for
talking about it.

583
00:28:09,305 --> 00:28:10,950
I'm all talked out.

584
00:28:10,950 --> 00:28:11,450
Yes.

585
00:28:11,450 --> 00:28:12,550
Thank you.

586
00:28:12,550 --> 00:28:16,420
Now, what do you want--

587
00:28:16,420 --> 00:28:21,040
This concludes the interview
of Dr. Tibor Vince.

588
00:28:21,040 --> 00:28:27,060
It took place on March 11,
1996, in Bethesda, Maryland.

589
00:28:27,060 --> 00:28:29,910
It was conducted
by Gail Schwartz.

590
00:28:29,910 --> 00:28:33,000