

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:11,970

2
00:00:11,970 --> 00:00:15,810
Peter Masters interview
by Joshua Gray.

3
00:00:15,810 --> 00:00:24,450
Tape 2, April 23, 1996.

4
00:00:24,450 --> 00:00:26,970
Let's begin again
with explaining

5
00:00:26,970 --> 00:00:29,460
how you dealt with
your Judaism when

6
00:00:29,460 --> 00:00:31,780
wearing the Church of
England on your dog tag.

7
00:00:31,780 --> 00:00:36,150
Well, it was sort
of put on hold,

8
00:00:36,150 --> 00:00:39,810
I would say, for the duration.

9
00:00:39,810 --> 00:00:45,600
The point is we were supposed
to be security-minded

10
00:00:45,600 --> 00:00:50,710
when we arrived in North Wales,
in Abardare Merioneth North

11
00:00:50,710 --> 00:00:51,210
Wales.

12
00:00:51,210 --> 00:00:53,790

13
00:00:53,790 --> 00:00:56,730
The first thing
we heard, I didn't

14
00:00:56,730 --> 00:00:59,870
know I was going to
be in the commandos.

15
00:00:59,870 --> 00:01:01,950
I arrived, saw a
bunch of Green Berets,

16
00:01:01,950 --> 00:01:06,420
they all wore commando
soldier sort of flashes,

17
00:01:06,420 --> 00:01:09,930
and we were called
in one at a time,

18
00:01:09,930 --> 00:01:14,910
and were interviewed
by the skipper.

19
00:01:14,910 --> 00:01:18,840

20
00:01:18,840 --> 00:01:21,630
Interviewed by the skipper,
Brian Hilton Jones,

21
00:01:21,630 --> 00:01:25,380
who turned out to be the same
man who had first interviewed

22
00:01:25,380 --> 00:01:29,550
me in disguise,
as it were, when I

23
00:01:29,550 --> 00:01:32,610
had seen a notice on the

bulletin board saying,

24

00:01:32,610 --> 00:01:37,050
anyone volunteering for
special and hazardous duty,

25

00:01:37,050 --> 00:01:41,940
come to the office and apply.

26

00:01:41,940 --> 00:01:44,460
He was now wearing a
Green Beret and was

27

00:01:44,460 --> 00:01:48,390
a captain in the commandos.

28

00:01:48,390 --> 00:01:53,280
The first thing he told us
was about the name change that

29

00:01:53,280 --> 00:01:59,490
was necessary, because he
didn't want the Germans to know

30

00:01:59,490 --> 00:02:05,460
that we had an elite assault
unit, parachute commandos, who

31

00:02:05,460 --> 00:02:08,699
spoke not only fluent
German, but were

32

00:02:08,699 --> 00:02:11,280
to be trained in all
matters pertaining

33

00:02:11,280 --> 00:02:14,280
to the German army, their
documents, their organization,

34

00:02:14,280 --> 00:02:18,950
their methodology, their
weapons, you name it.

35

00:02:18,950 --> 00:02:24,000

And we had lectures on that
as on many other subjects.

36

00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:27,330

I still have my rather
colorful notebooks.

37

00:02:27,330 --> 00:02:32,760

Having been an art student, I'd
do to all the rank, insignia,

38

00:02:32,760 --> 00:02:35,880

and so on so that I
would recognize them.

39

00:02:35,880 --> 00:02:38,340

And we learned a
lot of good stuff.

40

00:02:38,340 --> 00:02:42,990

We also learned German
army jargon, which

41

00:02:42,990 --> 00:02:47,160

proved to be not quite as
successful, because as we

42

00:02:47,160 --> 00:02:52,800

subsequently discovered, just
like in the Allied armies,

43

00:02:52,800 --> 00:02:55,410

people, even down
to small units,

44

00:02:55,410 --> 00:03:00,360

have languages of their own
when it comes to dialect--

45

00:03:00,360 --> 00:03:03,420

quite apart from the fact

that different services

46
00:03:03,420 --> 00:03:04,710
have different language.

47
00:03:04,710 --> 00:03:08,730
The Air Force has different
words than the Navy.

48
00:03:08,730 --> 00:03:12,010
And the Marines have different--

49
00:03:12,010 --> 00:03:16,290
you could do a dictionary
on that language.

50
00:03:16,290 --> 00:03:19,530
Well, they had done a dictionary
on German army language,

51
00:03:19,530 --> 00:03:23,880
but it probably was taken
from one unit or something.

52
00:03:23,880 --> 00:03:27,450
Certainly at times, I
tried it on prisoners,

53
00:03:27,450 --> 00:03:29,890
and they didn't know what
the hell I was talking about.

54
00:03:29,890 --> 00:03:32,610
So I'd use some
other phrase until we

55
00:03:32,610 --> 00:03:36,840
understood each other, which
usually was not too difficult.

56
00:03:36,840 --> 00:03:39,150
And I learned some
new words that they

57

00:03:39,150 --> 00:03:42,930
were using that hadn't
been in the book

58

00:03:42,930 --> 00:03:45,420
in having conversations
as it were.

59

00:03:45,420 --> 00:03:49,080
Interrogations can be quite
friendly conversations.

60

00:03:49,080 --> 00:03:53,820
Sometimes it's politic
to ask questions

61

00:03:53,820 --> 00:03:56,640
as if you were playing a game.

62

00:03:56,640 --> 00:04:05,220
And if you are
taken prisoner, it's

63

00:04:05,220 --> 00:04:08,520
usually a very
dangerous business.

64

00:04:08,520 --> 00:04:11,310
If you surrender, the
people on your side

65

00:04:11,310 --> 00:04:14,850
may shoot you if they see
you doing it-- walking

66

00:04:14,850 --> 00:04:16,300
out with, say,
your hands up, some

67

00:04:16,300 --> 00:04:20,519
die hard Nazi might just
put a bullet through you.

68
00:04:20,519 --> 00:04:23,550
And then the question is,
can you get into the enemy

69
00:04:23,550 --> 00:04:26,160
without somebody shooting you?

70
00:04:26,160 --> 00:04:28,380
Because people tend to
be loose on the trigger.

71
00:04:28,380 --> 00:04:33,900
And one is so programmed that if
one saw the field gray uniform,

72
00:04:33,900 --> 00:04:36,630
one was on edge and
tightened the finger

73
00:04:36,630 --> 00:04:38,820
on the trigger a bit.

74
00:04:38,820 --> 00:04:40,780
So they've just had
a narrow escape,

75
00:04:40,780 --> 00:04:42,990
now they're being
immediately interviewed

76
00:04:42,990 --> 00:04:46,380
in their own language by
someone who speaks it fluently

77
00:04:46,380 --> 00:04:47,850
and idiomatically.

78
00:04:47,850 --> 00:04:50,550

79
00:04:50,550 --> 00:04:52,950

Often, we would
be asked, how come

80
00:04:52,950 --> 00:04:55,050
you speak such good German?

81
00:04:55,050 --> 00:04:57,900
My standard reply was,
I'm asking the questions,

82
00:04:57,900 --> 00:05:00,010
and you're giving the answers.

83
00:05:00,010 --> 00:05:03,370
But as I say, sometimes
you give them a cigarette,

84
00:05:03,370 --> 00:05:09,810
and warm them up, and
sometimes you would be harsh.

85
00:05:09,810 --> 00:05:16,080
We would not ever
do anything that you

86
00:05:16,080 --> 00:05:22,770
could interpret as being
an abuse of the situation.

87
00:05:22,770 --> 00:05:26,430
Although I have to emphasize,
the Geneva Convention

88
00:05:26,430 --> 00:05:28,830
for the treatment
of prisoners amounts

89
00:05:28,830 --> 00:05:31,170
to very little when
one side has the guns

90
00:05:31,170 --> 00:05:32,490
and the other side does not.

91
00:05:32,490 --> 00:05:37,926

92
00:05:37,926 --> 00:05:40,050
I would be a bit rough at times.

93
00:05:40,050 --> 00:05:41,680
I'm supposed to
search them, right?

94
00:05:41,680 --> 00:05:46,530
So in order to search, I have
to get into the inside pockets.

95
00:05:46,530 --> 00:05:49,350
I can ask him to
unbutton the pockets,

96
00:05:49,350 --> 00:05:52,050
but he has his hands
up on his head,

97
00:05:52,050 --> 00:05:54,180
so I'm unbuttoning the pockets.

98
00:05:54,180 --> 00:05:58,500
Well, I might do
that drastically

99
00:05:58,500 --> 00:06:02,910
by grabbing hold of both
sides of the uniform

100
00:06:02,910 --> 00:06:05,520
and pulling it open--

101
00:06:05,520 --> 00:06:09,330
the buttons would pop off, which
has a certain dramatic effect

102
00:06:09,330 --> 00:06:12,870

which sometimes, without
physically harming the person,

103
00:06:12,870 --> 00:06:15,750
is a degree of intimidation.

104
00:06:15,750 --> 00:06:20,520
And other times, a friendly
cigarette, a cup of tea--

105
00:06:20,520 --> 00:06:26,160
you learned which is
likely to be effective.

106
00:06:26,160 --> 00:06:29,700
After all, what you're doing
is sometimes vitally important.

107
00:06:29,700 --> 00:06:37,260
If you capture people who may
be upon you in force in minutes,

108
00:06:37,260 --> 00:06:42,120
or in an hour, or who have
planted some kind of thing

109
00:06:42,120 --> 00:06:44,550
that's going to blow
up in your face,

110
00:06:44,550 --> 00:06:48,510
you want to make darn
sure that you understand

111
00:06:48,510 --> 00:06:51,240
what they've been up to.

112
00:06:51,240 --> 00:06:57,390
Now, in Aberdare, we were
called in, name change,

113
00:06:57,390 --> 00:07:00,390
strict instructions

to destroy anything

114
00:07:00,390 --> 00:07:06,270
with our previous name on it,
no correspondence with people

115
00:07:06,270 --> 00:07:09,390
with foreign names.

116
00:07:09,390 --> 00:07:11,130
The local post
office, after all,

117
00:07:11,130 --> 00:07:14,640
is somebody who is
conversationally acquainted

118
00:07:14,640 --> 00:07:16,530
with almost anybody
in the village.

119
00:07:16,530 --> 00:07:19,050

120
00:07:19,050 --> 00:07:22,140
It presented certain problems.

121
00:07:22,140 --> 00:07:25,770
You'd be surprised where your
name appears on things you own.

122
00:07:25,770 --> 00:07:29,160
You have written it into
a book, you burn the book.

123
00:07:29,160 --> 00:07:32,920
You don't throw it in the trash.

124
00:07:32,920 --> 00:07:36,300
In Europe, we frequently--
not only in Europe--

125

00:07:36,300 --> 00:07:40,800
you had your monogram
in your handkerchief--

126
00:07:40,800 --> 00:07:41,880
get rid of it.

127
00:07:41,880 --> 00:07:43,680
Burn it.

128
00:07:43,680 --> 00:07:52,170
Letters-- burn the envelopes or
any reference to other language

129
00:07:52,170 --> 00:07:55,200
if there were letters in
German from home or something--

130
00:07:55,200 --> 00:07:57,630
destroy them.

131
00:07:57,630 --> 00:07:59,820
We were then sent
to private billets

132
00:07:59,820 --> 00:08:02,730
because commanders
don't have staff

133
00:08:02,730 --> 00:08:06,720
where they have facilities with
backup administrative staff.

134
00:08:06,720 --> 00:08:09,900
They have one administrative
officer and one clerk

135
00:08:09,900 --> 00:08:12,450
who's a fully trained commando.

136
00:08:12,450 --> 00:08:19,470
So there is no cookhouse, there
are no cooks, there's nothing.

137
00:08:19,470 --> 00:08:22,980
So everybody is self-sufficient.

138
00:08:22,980 --> 00:08:26,350
That's a big point
of the training.

139
00:08:26,350 --> 00:08:29,040
So we were sent to private
billets of citizens

140
00:08:29,040 --> 00:08:32,970
who did this as part of their
contribution to the war effort,

141
00:08:32,970 --> 00:08:37,289
and perhaps got a
slight amount of money

142
00:08:37,289 --> 00:08:40,080
to help them buy the
rations, and certainly

143
00:08:40,080 --> 00:08:42,539
ration cards for us.

144
00:08:42,539 --> 00:08:45,420
And so I appeared at
Dr. Wright's house,

145
00:08:45,420 --> 00:08:47,970
which was the last house
in the village, where

146
00:08:47,970 --> 00:08:50,430
Dr. Wright, and his wife,
and two children lived.

147
00:08:50,430 --> 00:08:53,550
And he knew I would be sent.

148

00:08:53,550 --> 00:08:57,090
And I immediately
closeted myself in order

149
00:08:57,090 --> 00:09:02,250
to destroy my identity, remind
us of the other identity.

150
00:09:02,250 --> 00:09:07,110
And then I had the present task
of stitching on my commander

151
00:09:07,110 --> 00:09:11,610
flashes and my combined
ops-- combined operations,

152
00:09:11,610 --> 00:09:16,530
the anchor, the RAF
eagle, and the Tommy

153
00:09:16,530 --> 00:09:21,930
gun in scarlet on a blue
background on both sleeves.

154
00:09:21,930 --> 00:09:26,100
And I had to sign my
name, because there

155
00:09:26,100 --> 00:09:28,740
was a registration
thing in wartime.

156
00:09:28,740 --> 00:09:34,540
And so I decided to sign as
unaffectedly as possible,

157
00:09:34,540 --> 00:09:37,710
just like handwriting,
because otherwise, how

158
00:09:37,710 --> 00:09:40,755
was I going to do it again
and again the same style?

159

00:09:40,755 --> 00:09:41,710

You see?

160

00:09:41,710 --> 00:09:44,220

And I'm still signing
it the same way today.

161

00:09:44,220 --> 00:09:47,280

162

00:09:47,280 --> 00:09:51,300

Then we were told that
we had to make up a story

163

00:09:51,300 --> 00:09:54,480

why we had an accent,
because most of us

164

00:09:54,480 --> 00:09:57,720

had more or less broad accents.

165

00:09:57,720 --> 00:10:01,080

The members of the troop
were mostly Jewish refugees,

166

00:10:01,080 --> 00:10:03,000

a few political refugees.

167

00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:09,450

And they were from
Austria, Germany, Hungary--

168

00:10:09,450 --> 00:10:13,110

and the few odd ones
from other places.

169

00:10:13,110 --> 00:10:15,720

Austria, Germany, and
Hungary because they

170

00:10:15,720 --> 00:10:18,330

had no government

in exile, therefore

171
00:10:18,330 --> 00:10:25,110
no armies of their own
serving with the Allies.

172
00:10:25,110 --> 00:10:30,630
So we were technically
enemy aliens,

173
00:10:30,630 --> 00:10:33,150
which is why we had been
interned previously-- most

174
00:10:33,150 --> 00:10:35,940
of us, not all of us.

175
00:10:35,940 --> 00:10:39,420
So you had to make up a
story why you had an accent.

176
00:10:39,420 --> 00:10:47,490
My story was that my father
was a businessman who

177
00:10:47,490 --> 00:10:54,790
worked all over Europe,
and Africa, and Asia.

178
00:10:54,790 --> 00:11:02,850
And my mother, and he,
and I were in Austria

179
00:11:02,850 --> 00:11:04,650
when I was a baby.

180
00:11:04,650 --> 00:11:10,140
And my father was
then transferred

181
00:11:10,140 --> 00:11:13,200
to a place in a
tropical climate where

182
00:11:13,200 --> 00:11:16,860
it was considered a bad idea
to take a very small baby,

183
00:11:16,860 --> 00:11:22,290
so I was put in the care
of a nanny, a governess who

184
00:11:22,290 --> 00:11:23,610
was Austrian.

185
00:11:23,610 --> 00:11:26,430
And my mother went
with him, thinking

186
00:11:26,430 --> 00:11:27,630
she would be back soon.

187
00:11:27,630 --> 00:11:29,490
And it got postponed,
and postponed,

188
00:11:29,490 --> 00:11:31,140
and he got transferred again.

189
00:11:31,140 --> 00:11:35,460
And so in the meantime, I
started to talk in, naturally,

190
00:11:35,460 --> 00:11:39,760
and the nanny taught me to speak
the Austrian version of German.

191
00:11:39,760 --> 00:11:44,760
And when my parents came back,
they thought it was rather cute

192
00:11:44,760 --> 00:11:48,390
and that, obviously, I was going
to learn my own language easily

193

00:11:48,390 --> 00:11:49,410
anyway.

194
00:11:49,410 --> 00:11:51,450
But then he was sent
somewhere else again,

195
00:11:51,450 --> 00:11:54,180
and the status quo continued.

196
00:11:54,180 --> 00:12:01,320
And before they knew
it, it became my de facto

197
00:12:01,320 --> 00:12:03,480
first language.

198
00:12:03,480 --> 00:12:07,050
And I had to learn English
as a second language.

199
00:12:07,050 --> 00:12:10,740
And by this time, it was too
late not to have an accent,

200
00:12:10,740 --> 00:12:14,080
because it is at a certain age.

201
00:12:14,080 --> 00:12:18,270
Now, this was purely for
British consumption, this story.

202
00:12:18,270 --> 00:12:20,820
And if I were taken
prisoner and that

203
00:12:20,820 --> 00:12:25,320
was one of the other reasons
and, perhaps, one of the two

204
00:12:25,320 --> 00:12:31,080
main reasons of the name change
and the identity concealment,

205
00:12:31,080 --> 00:12:34,830
then I would try and talk as
little as possible to people

206
00:12:34,830 --> 00:12:37,920
who would take the next.

207
00:12:37,920 --> 00:12:42,870
One of our people, George Lane,
was captured on a French beach

208
00:12:42,870 --> 00:12:46,140
two weeks before D-Day
doing reconnaissance.

209
00:12:46,140 --> 00:12:48,090
And they were, of
course, fascinated

210
00:12:48,090 --> 00:12:52,770
to have a commando
officer in their hands.

211
00:12:52,770 --> 00:12:56,850
So he was taken to
Field Marshal Volmer.

212
00:12:56,850 --> 00:13:01,860
And George was Hungarian--

213
00:13:01,860 --> 00:13:06,270
George Lane was Juri Laney.

214
00:13:06,270 --> 00:13:10,380
And he thought his
Hungarian accent might show,

215
00:13:10,380 --> 00:13:14,370
so he faked a Welsh accent,
which we had sometimes

216

00:13:14,370 --> 00:13:20,940
toyed with when we were in Wales
because the language was rather

217
00:13:20,940 --> 00:13:25,650
nice and sort of a
sing-song dialect.

218
00:13:25,650 --> 00:13:27,210
And so we'd talk like that.

219
00:13:27,210 --> 00:13:30,360
And he figured that
unless the intelligence

220
00:13:30,360 --> 00:13:33,420
officer on the German side
and on the Gestapo side where

221
00:13:33,420 --> 00:13:37,530
he was subsequently
referred was very sharp,

222
00:13:37,530 --> 00:13:42,390
he would not detect a Hungarian
accent under a Welsh accent

223
00:13:42,390 --> 00:13:43,350
and the English.

224
00:13:43,350 --> 00:13:46,345
And of course, he
didn't admit that he

225
00:13:46,345 --> 00:13:47,970
spoke German-- he
understood everything

226
00:13:47,970 --> 00:13:49,262
they were saying to each other.

227
00:13:49,262 --> 00:13:51,660

228

00:13:51,660 --> 00:13:54,090

Volmer asked him
interesting questions.

229

00:13:54,090 --> 00:13:57,510

He said, do you
really think there

230

00:13:57,510 --> 00:13:59,400

is going to be a landing--
which, of course,

231

00:13:59,400 --> 00:14:01,990

we knew full well
there was going to be.

232

00:14:01,990 --> 00:14:05,940

And he said, that's what
I read in The Times.

233

00:14:05,940 --> 00:14:09,490

And then he said, how
is my friend Montgomery?

234

00:14:09,490 --> 00:14:16,140

And he said, he's very
well, but I haven't recently

235

00:14:16,140 --> 00:14:17,280

had any personal contact.

236

00:14:17,280 --> 00:14:20,220

237

00:14:20,220 --> 00:14:26,460

And Volmer began by saying, so,
you are one of those gangsters.

238

00:14:26,460 --> 00:14:32,460

And Lane said, I beg the
Field Marshal's pardon,

239

00:14:32,460 --> 00:14:37,590
we are elite soldiers,
not gangsters.

240

00:14:37,590 --> 00:14:43,420
And Volmer smiled and said,
you were taken prisoner

241

00:14:43,420 --> 00:14:46,080
in rather compromising
circumstances,

242

00:14:46,080 --> 00:14:49,410
and it may lead
one to believe you

243

00:14:49,410 --> 00:14:51,840
were about to commit
sabotage, and you

244

00:14:51,840 --> 00:14:54,310
know what we do with saboteurs.

245

00:14:54,310 --> 00:14:58,710
And Lane replied,
if the Field Marshal

246

00:14:58,710 --> 00:15:01,380
thought I was a
saboteur, I doubt

247

00:15:01,380 --> 00:15:03,960
he would have invited me to tea.

248

00:15:03,960 --> 00:15:08,160
And Volmer said, ah, you think
this is an invitation, do you?

249

00:15:08,160 --> 00:15:11,970
And Lane said,
well isn't it, sir?

250

00:15:11,970 --> 00:15:13,890
And they got on
very well, it seems.

251
00:15:13,890 --> 00:15:16,110
And I dare say that
Volmer saw to it

252
00:15:16,110 --> 00:15:17,640
that nothing happened to him.

253
00:15:17,640 --> 00:15:24,150
There was a Hitler [NON-ENGLISH]
order to shoot commandos when

254
00:15:24,150 --> 00:15:25,590
taken prisoner.

255
00:15:25,590 --> 00:15:29,010
This was not always carried
out, but it was certainly

256
00:15:29,010 --> 00:15:33,150
carried out in some instances.

257
00:15:33,150 --> 00:15:38,110
Earlier on, we had talked
about my wife coming out

258
00:15:38,110 --> 00:15:41,190
and my children
[INAUDIBLE] all her family,

259
00:15:41,190 --> 00:15:45,060
several generations being
murdered in Auschwitz.

260
00:15:45,060 --> 00:15:49,860
And I want to make
a point here--

261
00:15:49,860 --> 00:15:55,320
that is that I feel one

of the values of what

262
00:15:55,320 --> 00:15:58,680
we did in the commandos,
and what other people

263
00:15:58,680 --> 00:16:02,490
did, was the fact
that we did not

264
00:16:02,490 --> 00:16:04,330
go like lambs to the slaughter.

265
00:16:04,330 --> 00:16:06,840
We were the opposite of that.

266
00:16:06,840 --> 00:16:12,510
And I recently talked
with some people

267
00:16:12,510 --> 00:16:15,480
who told me about
their insecurity

268
00:16:15,480 --> 00:16:20,460
as refugees, that even
now they felt secure only

269
00:16:20,460 --> 00:16:23,250
when with other refugees.

270
00:16:23,250 --> 00:16:25,510
I found that astonishing.

271
00:16:25,510 --> 00:16:28,560
And I thought about it
and pointed out to them

272
00:16:28,560 --> 00:16:37,900
that this was, without question,
a complex of insecurity,

273

00:16:37,900 --> 00:16:43,270
which I think one should try
to overcome in this sense.

274
00:16:43,270 --> 00:16:48,150
When I was a boy, zoology notion
was perhaps a little primitive,

275
00:16:48,150 --> 00:16:52,920
but we were always told that a
camel stores water in its hump,

276
00:16:52,920 --> 00:16:56,010
and then can live long
periods in the desert

277
00:16:56,010 --> 00:16:58,440
on that water that is stored.

278
00:16:58,440 --> 00:17:02,880
I believe that if one has
accomplished something,

279
00:17:02,880 --> 00:17:07,560
that is the water in one's hump
that can sustain one in times

280
00:17:07,560 --> 00:17:10,890
of threat and insecurity.

281
00:17:10,890 --> 00:17:19,380
Now, I feel that having
been able to fight the Nazis

282
00:17:19,380 --> 00:17:22,290
has sustained me
throughout my life.

283
00:17:22,290 --> 00:17:29,880
And I tried to communicate
this positive attitude,

284
00:17:29,880 --> 00:17:32,880

and also to dispel
some of the myths

285
00:17:32,880 --> 00:17:36,180
about the competence
of the Nazis

286
00:17:36,180 --> 00:17:39,930
and how infallible they were
militarily, which, of course,

287
00:17:39,930 --> 00:17:41,070
they were not.

288
00:17:41,070 --> 00:17:44,670
They were unbelievably
incompetent at times

289
00:17:44,670 --> 00:17:48,030
and unbelievably
stupid at other times.

290
00:17:48,030 --> 00:17:49,680
There were certain
things that they

291
00:17:49,680 --> 00:17:53,850
did that certainly were
self-inflicted things that

292
00:17:53,850 --> 00:17:56,460
caused them to lose the war.

293
00:17:56,460 --> 00:18:00,270
They were, just to
throw out one at random,

294
00:18:00,270 --> 00:18:03,150
what I called gadget happy.

295
00:18:03,150 --> 00:18:05,130
They loved gadgets.

296

00:18:05,130 --> 00:18:09,600

So they built
complicated machineries

297

00:18:09,600 --> 00:18:15,600

that they could in no way
afford, precision instruments,

298

00:18:15,600 --> 00:18:18,090

weapons, that were excellent.

299

00:18:18,090 --> 00:18:20,940

But if they fell into
enemy hands, then

300

00:18:20,940 --> 00:18:23,010

they were certainly
no use to them.

301

00:18:23,010 --> 00:18:25,710

And what they really
needed at this stage

302

00:18:25,710 --> 00:18:29,970

was what the Allies did--
namely to manufacture

303

00:18:29,970 --> 00:18:33,240

very cheap weapons that could
be adopted if some of them

304

00:18:33,240 --> 00:18:35,370

were damaged, you
threw them away.

305

00:18:35,370 --> 00:18:38,050

It didn't make any difference--
is \$5 worth of weapons

306

00:18:38,050 --> 00:18:39,490

or something.

307

00:18:39,490 --> 00:18:45,895

But if you start
producing precision things

308

00:18:45,895 --> 00:18:48,020

that you can't afford,
you're going to go bankrupt.

309

00:18:48,020 --> 00:18:50,750

310

00:18:50,750 --> 00:18:56,510

The attitude also,
and perhaps that

311

00:18:56,510 --> 00:18:59,030

goes with when
you begin to lose,

312

00:18:59,030 --> 00:19:03,200

but then you mustn't forget
the Allies lost at first.

313

00:19:03,200 --> 00:19:08,990

And I don't think we
ever sank as low as they

314

00:19:08,990 --> 00:19:11,480

did when they were losing.

315

00:19:11,480 --> 00:19:17,470

They threatened
their own people.

316

00:19:17,470 --> 00:19:19,610

There was what
I've always thought

317

00:19:19,610 --> 00:19:23,270

was an amusing incident
where they dropped pamphlets

318

00:19:23,270 --> 00:19:28,430

on our lines by artillery
shells that exploded,

319
00:19:28,430 --> 00:19:30,680
and pamphlets would scatter.

320
00:19:30,680 --> 00:19:37,070
And these pamphlets fell
short and never reached us.

321
00:19:37,070 --> 00:19:40,190
And I was out on
patrol and saw them,

322
00:19:40,190 --> 00:19:46,460
and I told a British major
in the commandos about it,

323
00:19:46,460 --> 00:19:49,280
and he said, let's
go out and get them.

324
00:19:49,280 --> 00:19:53,180
So we went out into no man's
land for the express purpose

325
00:19:53,180 --> 00:19:57,170
of collecting the Nazi
propaganda pamphlets which

326
00:19:57,170 --> 00:19:58,490
had fallen short.

327
00:19:58,490 --> 00:20:01,550
And then while we were
crawling out there--

328
00:20:01,550 --> 00:20:05,870
at some risk on our
knees picking them up--

329
00:20:05,870 --> 00:20:08,610
he said, I want

seven complete sets

330
00:20:08,610 --> 00:20:12,770
I can give one to each one
of our commando troops,

331
00:20:12,770 --> 00:20:16,610
and we keep one set ourselves--

332
00:20:16,610 --> 00:20:18,590
one for you and one for me, OK?

333
00:20:18,590 --> 00:20:19,640
And we did that.

334
00:20:19,640 --> 00:20:23,657
And I started to
laugh on the way back.

335
00:20:23,657 --> 00:20:24,740
And he said, what's funny?

336
00:20:24,740 --> 00:20:28,310
I said, well, we just captured
a German document that said,

337
00:20:28,310 --> 00:20:31,460
anyone below the
rank of major who

338
00:20:31,460 --> 00:20:34,880
is found with an enemy
propaganda pamphlet

339
00:20:34,880 --> 00:20:37,190
will be shot immediately.

340
00:20:37,190 --> 00:20:39,860
And here we were
doing their work,

341
00:20:39,860 --> 00:20:44,120

because we thought the pamphlets
were funny, which they were.

342
00:20:44,120 --> 00:20:46,940
They were incompetent.

343
00:20:46,940 --> 00:20:48,890
Apart from being
misspelled, they

344
00:20:48,890 --> 00:20:55,670
confused British cockney
dialects with American slang,

345
00:20:55,670 --> 00:20:58,100
so that it became
a hodgepodge that

346
00:20:58,100 --> 00:21:03,891
would seem funny to both
recipients in either army.

347
00:21:03,891 --> 00:21:07,040

348
00:21:07,040 --> 00:21:09,890
Now, in my wife's
case, she worked for,

349
00:21:09,890 --> 00:21:14,180
subsequently in England, for
the Czech government in exile.

350
00:21:14,180 --> 00:21:20,150
And she then was on loan
to the first conference

351
00:21:20,150 --> 00:21:22,280
of the International
Monetary Fund,

352
00:21:22,280 --> 00:21:24,390
and they offered her

a job in Washington.

353

00:21:24,390 --> 00:21:27,650

She came for what she thought
was an experimental year

354

00:21:27,650 --> 00:21:34,700

and then worked for the
monetary fund here for 36 years.

355

00:21:34,700 --> 00:21:40,490

And she became an administrative
officer with minimal schooling

356

00:21:40,490 --> 00:21:44,090

in the village in the Tatra
Mountains where she came from,

357

00:21:44,090 --> 00:21:47,060

and which she left when
she was 12 years old.

358

00:21:47,060 --> 00:21:51,800

Now, I think that's the water
in her hump that sustains her--

359

00:21:51,800 --> 00:21:53,090

her accomplishment.

360

00:21:53,090 --> 00:21:57,950

And she is incredibly
fast, and quick-witted,

361

00:21:57,950 --> 00:22:00,110

and competent in
making arrangements,

362

00:22:00,110 --> 00:22:06,500

because she did it for 60 or
100 people in her department.

363

00:22:06,500 --> 00:22:07,890

It makes a difference.

364
00:22:07,890 --> 00:22:15,440
And I think it doesn't
have to be dramatic.

365
00:22:15,440 --> 00:22:18,530
When I was in art school,
I once did a design.

366
00:22:18,530 --> 00:22:23,240
And I don't know if
I told that story,

367
00:22:23,240 --> 00:22:25,940
my teacher didn't
like the design.

368
00:22:25,940 --> 00:22:28,850
I was doing my graduate
year in New York.

369
00:22:28,850 --> 00:22:34,040
But I guess a famous person
had sent the project,

370
00:22:34,040 --> 00:22:35,780
and I had solved it.

371
00:22:35,780 --> 00:22:41,040
And he subsequently said
it was a perfect solution.

372
00:22:41,040 --> 00:22:46,460
So whenever I doubted whether
I was any good at my profession

373
00:22:46,460 --> 00:22:51,320
as a designer, I reminded myself
that this great and admired men

374
00:22:51,320 --> 00:22:53,630
had said my solution
was perfect.

375
00:22:53,630 --> 00:22:56,120
And that would really help.

376
00:22:56,120 --> 00:22:58,910
It was an Austrian
pathologist professor

377
00:22:58,910 --> 00:23:01,940
who said that nobody can
be any good at their job

378
00:23:01,940 --> 00:23:04,100
if they haven't at
some time doubted they

379
00:23:04,100 --> 00:23:07,250
were any good at it at all.

380
00:23:07,250 --> 00:23:08,030
I believe that.

381
00:23:08,030 --> 00:23:12,870

382
00:23:12,870 --> 00:23:15,930
When you're interrogating
the Germans,

383
00:23:15,930 --> 00:23:19,350
did you ever ask about
the concentration camps

384
00:23:19,350 --> 00:23:21,303
or what they were
doing to the Jews

385
00:23:21,303 --> 00:23:22,470
and the political prisoners?

386
00:23:22,470 --> 00:23:25,620
Or were you just interested

strictly in their army

387
00:23:25,620 --> 00:23:26,340
movements?

388
00:23:26,340 --> 00:23:32,540
No, it was strictly
military and on the spot.

389
00:23:32,540 --> 00:23:36,420
How much we knew when,
I already mentioned

390
00:23:36,420 --> 00:23:37,950
is hard to determine--

391
00:23:37,950 --> 00:23:41,750
I don't know for sure.

392
00:23:41,750 --> 00:23:45,810
Later when we got
into Germany, there

393
00:23:45,810 --> 00:23:51,970
was a great temptation to play
God, and punish, and reward,

394
00:23:51,970 --> 00:23:53,850
and whatever.

395
00:23:53,850 --> 00:23:58,500
Not easy, because I
would talk to some slave

396
00:23:58,500 --> 00:24:02,700
laborers who were French,
or Polish, or whatever,

397
00:24:02,700 --> 00:24:07,710
and I would say, how did they
treat you here on this farm?

398

00:24:07,710 --> 00:24:11,610
And almost inevitably,
they would say, well,

399
00:24:11,610 --> 00:24:14,320
mine was not too bad.

400
00:24:14,320 --> 00:24:19,230
And they wanted me to work,
so they fed me very well.

401
00:24:19,230 --> 00:24:22,080
But the one down the road
was a really bad Nazi.

402
00:24:22,080 --> 00:24:25,160
So I'd go there and
get the same thing.

403
00:24:25,160 --> 00:24:27,330
I'm not sure whether it
was that they thought

404
00:24:27,330 --> 00:24:30,810
perhaps we might
lose the next day,

405
00:24:30,810 --> 00:24:33,030
and the Germans might
come back so they

406
00:24:33,030 --> 00:24:35,970
didn't want to compromise
their situation too much.

407
00:24:35,970 --> 00:24:40,110
Although, progressively, this
was getting less likely as we

408
00:24:40,110 --> 00:24:42,000
were rolling along.

409
00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:48,420

Mind you, the rolling
along was not without cost.

410
00:24:48,420 --> 00:24:52,230
There were always
some fanatic Nazis

411
00:24:52,230 --> 00:24:55,980
who were making a hold at the
next line, making a stand--

412
00:24:55,980 --> 00:24:59,130
and from their point of view,
doing the patriotic thing,

413
00:24:59,130 --> 00:25:04,470
from our point of view doing
stupid, self-destructive things

414
00:25:04,470 --> 00:25:07,830
that we resented, because
we had the casualties when

415
00:25:07,830 --> 00:25:08,970
it was clearly over.

416
00:25:08,970 --> 00:25:12,120

417
00:25:12,120 --> 00:25:16,770
We lost our leader, the one
who replaced the skipper when

418
00:25:16,770 --> 00:25:22,890
the skipper was wounded on a
patrol on which I participated.

419
00:25:22,890 --> 00:25:26,340
He was wounded very
badly and taken prisoner.

420
00:25:26,340 --> 00:25:32,700
And subsequently, one of our

own, a German, Clint Garza,

421
00:25:32,700 --> 00:25:36,390
James Griffiths
took over, and he

422
00:25:36,390 --> 00:25:42,910
was responsible for insisting
I get a commission--

423
00:25:42,910 --> 00:25:46,860
rather late in the
war, because that

424
00:25:46,860 --> 00:25:49,410
wasn't easy for foreign people.

425
00:25:49,410 --> 00:25:55,140
And Montgomery
apparently objected

426
00:25:55,140 --> 00:25:57,330
to commissions in
the field unless they

427
00:25:57,330 --> 00:26:03,720
were demanded by dire
necessity, because he

428
00:26:03,720 --> 00:26:07,740
said it leads to fraternization
with the enlisted men.

429
00:26:07,740 --> 00:26:10,350
And we thought that
was not a bad idea.

430
00:26:10,350 --> 00:26:17,130
And evidently, the old, stodgy
soldiers, including Montgomery,

431
00:26:17,130 --> 00:26:18,460
didn't approve of that.

432
00:26:18,460 --> 00:26:21,480
So they wanted people
to go to cadet school.

433
00:26:21,480 --> 00:26:24,390
And I had to go to
cadet school, which

434
00:26:24,390 --> 00:26:27,330
I had found was no problem.

435
00:26:27,330 --> 00:26:30,180
If they asked any questions
how to do something,

436
00:26:30,180 --> 00:26:32,610
I tried to remember
how we did them.

437
00:26:32,610 --> 00:26:35,190
And it seemed to be
right most of the time,

438
00:26:35,190 --> 00:26:37,770
because I was in a good unit.

439
00:26:37,770 --> 00:26:46,500
So I went to cadet school at
the urging of James Griffith,

440
00:26:46,500 --> 00:26:50,490
and he was killed at
the very end of the war.

441
00:26:50,490 --> 00:26:54,030

442
00:26:54,030 --> 00:26:56,880
He had already sent me back.

443
00:26:56,880 --> 00:27:01,620

And he went on a
patrol on the river

444
00:27:01,620 --> 00:27:03,510
with one other guy
from the troop--

445
00:27:03,510 --> 00:27:06,240
I don't know who it
was, never found it.

446
00:27:06,240 --> 00:27:10,170
I had done a number
of patrols with James,

447
00:27:10,170 --> 00:27:13,890
and I'm sure he would have
taken me had I been there.

448
00:27:13,890 --> 00:27:16,710

449
00:27:16,710 --> 00:27:22,470
So on return from
that patrol, somebody

450
00:27:22,470 --> 00:27:25,620
warned that there
were snipers about.

451
00:27:25,620 --> 00:27:34,440
And James allegedly said,
what, me worry about this?

452
00:27:34,440 --> 00:27:36,810
Don't you know I'm bulletproof?

453
00:27:36,810 --> 00:27:40,530
And then he was killed.

454
00:27:40,530 --> 00:27:43,470
And they put up a cross.

455

00:27:43,470 --> 00:27:48,090
So his cover story obviously
held for the time being anyway,

456

00:27:48,090 --> 00:27:52,020
because they wouldn't have put
up a cross for a Jewish boy

457

00:27:52,020 --> 00:27:53,235
from Germany.

458

00:27:53,235 --> 00:27:57,570

459

00:27:57,570 --> 00:28:00,450
Following the war,
did you ever want

460

00:28:00,450 --> 00:28:04,410
to go back to a life that had
not made you flee from Vienna?

461

00:28:04,410 --> 00:28:05,880
You mean go back to Vietnam?

462

00:28:05,880 --> 00:28:09,510
Right, and establish
your life there again?

463

00:28:09,510 --> 00:28:10,310
No.

464

00:28:10,310 --> 00:28:13,140
No, no, no, no.

465

00:28:13,140 --> 00:28:18,330
I have to say that in Austria
where every high school student

466

00:28:18,330 --> 00:28:23,150
learns Latin and Latin Proverbs
are bandied about freely,

467
00:28:23,150 --> 00:28:27,930
the Latin proverb,
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] is quite

468
00:28:27,930 --> 00:28:28,440
popular--

469
00:28:28,440 --> 00:28:31,290
where I'm well, there
is my fatherland.

470
00:28:31,290 --> 00:28:34,650
In other words, I've always
felt I could live anywhere.

471
00:28:34,650 --> 00:28:37,440
And technically, I
could live in Austria,

472
00:28:37,440 --> 00:28:41,490
but it is too much of a strain
to think in terms of all

473
00:28:41,490 --> 00:28:45,420
the older people-- whether
they were in any way materially

474
00:28:45,420 --> 00:28:48,480
murdering my friends
and relatives--

475
00:28:48,480 --> 00:28:51,180
and my grandfather,
among others.

476
00:28:51,180 --> 00:28:55,800
I have been there,
and I have found

477
00:28:55,800 --> 00:28:59,040
a somewhat refreshing
new generation

478
00:28:59,040 --> 00:29:05,910
of more democratically-inclined
young people.

479
00:29:05,910 --> 00:29:07,650
And the present
Austrian government

480
00:29:07,650 --> 00:29:12,270
is a liberal government,
and certainly

481
00:29:12,270 --> 00:29:17,760
bent on making amends
as best they can.

482
00:29:17,760 --> 00:29:23,400
But there's also a very
anti-Semitic neo-Nazi party

483
00:29:23,400 --> 00:29:25,320
that doesn't go by that name.

484
00:29:25,320 --> 00:29:31,560
And in fact, when it came up in
parliament whether to pay all

485
00:29:31,560 --> 00:29:38,910
Jewish refugees a
minor token reparation,

486
00:29:38,910 --> 00:29:42,990
the neo-Nazi leader--

487
00:29:42,990 --> 00:29:45,300
my phrase, not his--

488
00:29:45,300 --> 00:29:50,400
voted for the compensation, to
improve his image, presumably.

489

00:29:50,400 --> 00:29:54,570
And the only people,
amusingly, who voted against it

490
00:29:54,570 --> 00:29:58,410
was the Green Party, which
is the most liberal party.

491
00:29:58,410 --> 00:30:00,150
And they voted against
it because they

492
00:30:00,150 --> 00:30:03,530
felt it was not enough--

493
00:30:03,530 --> 00:30:05,250
the compensation should be more.

494
00:30:05,250 --> 00:30:07,470
So they voted against it.

495
00:30:07,470 --> 00:30:09,660
Were you looking for
any compensation?

496
00:30:09,660 --> 00:30:10,580
Yes.

497
00:30:10,580 --> 00:30:12,960
Well, first of all,
in the beginning,

498
00:30:12,960 --> 00:30:14,820
the Austrian
governments were not

499
00:30:14,820 --> 00:30:21,270
as bent on improving
their standing as the more

500
00:30:21,270 --> 00:30:22,520
recent ones.

501

00:30:22,520 --> 00:30:26,250

And in the very
beginning, they didn't

502

00:30:26,250 --> 00:30:31,730

want to call it reparation
or anything like that.

503

00:30:31,730 --> 00:30:37,680

So they called it a pension for
anybody who had been working.

504

00:30:37,680 --> 00:30:40,480

Well, I had been in the
middle of high school,

505

00:30:40,480 --> 00:30:42,450

so clearly, I
hadn't been working,

506

00:30:42,450 --> 00:30:45,990

so I was hardly entitled
to a pension per se.

507

00:30:45,990 --> 00:30:52,320

So they called it a pension
for interrupted studies,

508

00:30:52,320 --> 00:30:54,600

because who knows what
academic heights I

509

00:30:54,600 --> 00:30:57,120

might have reached had I
been allowed to continue

510

00:30:57,120 --> 00:30:59,280

and complete my studies?

511

00:30:59,280 --> 00:31:03,000

So I got a pension, as
most Australians do.

512
00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:06,210

513
00:31:06,210 --> 00:31:10,770
Certainly of a certain
age, the youngest ones

514
00:31:10,770 --> 00:31:11,640
who were infants--

515
00:31:11,640 --> 00:31:14,580
I don't get it, I don't think.

516
00:31:14,580 --> 00:31:22,200
And then this recent thing
about the compensation

517
00:31:22,200 --> 00:31:26,070
by the national fund, as it is
called by parliamentary action,

518
00:31:26,070 --> 00:31:28,290
has nothing to do
with the pension

519
00:31:28,290 --> 00:31:30,510
or with the interrupted studies.

520
00:31:30,510 --> 00:31:33,810
That goes to anybody
who was forced

521
00:31:33,810 --> 00:31:42,860
to flee for religious
reasons or racial reasons--

522
00:31:42,860 --> 00:31:45,350
gypsies, what have you--

523
00:31:45,350 --> 00:31:49,830
political reasons, homosexuals,
Seventh Day Adventists,

524
00:31:49,830 --> 00:31:50,330
whatever.

525
00:31:50,330 --> 00:31:54,200

526
00:31:54,200 --> 00:31:59,000
Jehovah's Witnesses, I
don't think the Seventh Day

527
00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:02,690
Adventists were persecuted,
but the Jehovah's Witnesses

528
00:32:02,690 --> 00:32:07,610
were certainly
murdered like the Jews.

529
00:32:07,610 --> 00:32:17,180
So that amount goes to
people who apply for it,

530
00:32:17,180 --> 00:32:20,570
and they urge everyone to apply.

531
00:32:20,570 --> 00:32:25,760
But it goes by age
and medical condition.

532
00:32:25,760 --> 00:32:34,600
So I know of people who are
over 90 who have got theirs.

533
00:32:34,600 --> 00:32:38,240
I'm obviously too
young at this stage,

534
00:32:38,240 --> 00:32:43,730
although I wrote them about
my cardiac and prostate cancer

535

00:32:43,730 --> 00:32:49,370
situation and hoped that
that may expedite it.

536
00:32:49,370 --> 00:32:52,490
So there is that
so-called compensation.

537
00:32:52,490 --> 00:32:56,990

538
00:32:56,990 --> 00:33:02,420
I've also tried to get
the Austrian government

539
00:33:02,420 --> 00:33:07,130
to recognize those who
died fighting the Nazis--

540
00:33:07,130 --> 00:33:10,670
the Austrians who died
fighting the Nazis, including,

541
00:33:10,670 --> 00:33:14,360
mainly, the Jews, and
more particularly,

542
00:33:14,360 --> 00:33:16,370
the ones in my troop.

543
00:33:16,370 --> 00:33:24,920
There were 15 Austrians, five
were killed, all except I,

544
00:33:24,920 --> 00:33:29,318
I think, were wounded,
some very badly.

545
00:33:29,318 --> 00:33:30,235
So they were invalids.

546
00:33:30,235 --> 00:33:33,290

547
00:33:33,290 --> 00:33:35,690
The Austrian embassy
told me that they

548
00:33:35,690 --> 00:33:40,630
would prefer to do something
for the living ones.

549
00:33:40,630 --> 00:33:43,100
I said, well, that
wasn't my purpose.

550
00:33:43,100 --> 00:33:45,890
And they said, how many
are living in this country?

551
00:33:45,890 --> 00:33:49,220
And there are three.

552
00:33:49,220 --> 00:33:54,300
So they wanted suggestions.

553
00:33:54,300 --> 00:33:56,190
And I said, it's
really hard for us

554
00:33:56,190 --> 00:34:00,540
to do because we wanted the
dead ones to be honored.

555
00:34:00,540 --> 00:34:03,720
Well, they said, see what
you can come up with.

556
00:34:03,720 --> 00:34:06,310
I talked to the other two--

557
00:34:06,310 --> 00:34:12,449
one in upper New York
and one in New York City.

558

00:34:12,449 --> 00:34:15,909

And we said, let's have
some fun with this.

559

00:34:15,909 --> 00:34:21,040

And we said, we still prefer you
do something for the dead ones.

560

00:34:21,040 --> 00:34:23,580

But if you want to
do something for us,

561

00:34:23,580 --> 00:34:27,090

sail us down the
Danube in a cruise ship

562

00:34:27,090 --> 00:34:32,790

and put us up at the Hotel Zaha
for a week with our children

563

00:34:32,790 --> 00:34:37,830

and grandchildren and a gala
performance at the opera

564

00:34:37,830 --> 00:34:40,280

will be fine.

565

00:34:40,280 --> 00:34:44,610

I met the man with whom I talked
subsequently, and he said,

566

00:34:44,610 --> 00:34:49,735

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] And that's
where the [?matter rests?].

567

00:34:49,735 --> 00:34:52,920

568

00:34:52,920 --> 00:34:57,030

Getting back to
what you knew when--

569

00:34:57,030 --> 00:34:58,740

idea about your
grandfather-- you

570
00:34:58,740 --> 00:35:01,380
mentioned in the
previous interview

571
00:35:01,380 --> 00:35:03,810
that at first you
thought the Nazis had

572
00:35:03,810 --> 00:35:06,270
killed your grandfather, but
then you found out for sure.

573
00:35:06,270 --> 00:35:09,330
When did you find out
and how did you find out?

574
00:35:09,330 --> 00:35:10,240
That he was killed?

575
00:35:10,240 --> 00:35:10,740
Yeah.

576
00:35:10,740 --> 00:35:13,920

577
00:35:13,920 --> 00:35:20,310
My mother and her siblings tried
to find out from the Red Cross

578
00:35:20,310 --> 00:35:22,290
and were subsequently told.

579
00:35:22,290 --> 00:35:24,120
There were still
Red Cross letters

580
00:35:24,120 --> 00:35:26,670
from concentration camp.

581

00:35:26,670 --> 00:35:36,420
I have them--
obviously, for the sense

582
00:35:36,420 --> 00:35:38,970
that they don't
say anything that

583
00:35:38,970 --> 00:35:45,160
compromises or communicates
anything of substance.

584
00:35:45,160 --> 00:35:46,890
The tragic thing
with my grandfather

585
00:35:46,890 --> 00:35:48,870
was that he was out.

586
00:35:48,870 --> 00:35:54,180
He was in Antwerp, and then
he came to London to visit,

587
00:35:54,180 --> 00:35:56,460
and he didn't want
to stay because he

588
00:35:56,460 --> 00:35:57,570
didn't speak English.

589
00:35:57,570 --> 00:36:00,960
And in Antwerp, he was a
well-known figure as a jeweler,

590
00:36:00,960 --> 00:36:03,360
and gold, and silversmith.

591
00:36:03,360 --> 00:36:07,080
And when the Nazis
came into Belgium,

592
00:36:07,080 --> 00:36:12,990
he tried to walk to France,

and they were machine

593

00:36:12,990 --> 00:36:15,540
gunned by planes on the road.

594

00:36:15,540 --> 00:36:16,620
And he was injured.

595

00:36:16,620 --> 00:36:19,480
Apparently somebody saw him
with a bandage and told us.

596

00:36:19,480 --> 00:36:23,040
So he went back to Antwerp
and simply waited--

597

00:36:23,040 --> 00:36:26,010
some friends said we
can arrange that could

598

00:36:26,010 --> 00:36:27,630
be hidden on the farm.

599

00:36:27,630 --> 00:36:33,600
And he said, will I be
able to take a daily walk?

600

00:36:33,600 --> 00:36:35,550
And will I be able
to have a bath?

601

00:36:35,550 --> 00:36:38,070
And he was told he
could have neither.

602

00:36:38,070 --> 00:36:41,490
He said, then I'm staying here.

603

00:36:41,490 --> 00:36:50,040
And he packed his rucksack, and
they got him almost immediately

604

00:36:50,040 --> 00:36:51,990
and sent him to Auschwitz.

605
00:36:51,990 --> 00:36:53,880
And they killed him immediately.

606
00:36:53,880 --> 00:37:01,580
Now, he had hidden some of his
jewelry or whatever, gold dust,

607
00:37:01,580 --> 00:37:03,410
in the doorjamb.

608
00:37:03,410 --> 00:37:06,200
He had an excavation made.

609
00:37:06,200 --> 00:37:09,620
And my mother went to
Antwerp, and looked for it

610
00:37:09,620 --> 00:37:13,310
in the apartment,
and found the place.

611
00:37:13,310 --> 00:37:16,700
And it was empty,
because, presumably,

612
00:37:16,700 --> 00:37:20,100
they found it, or the
person who made it,

613
00:37:20,100 --> 00:37:22,040
they remembered
where he made it,

614
00:37:22,040 --> 00:37:23,570
and we don't know who that was.

615
00:37:23,570 --> 00:37:27,320

616

00:37:27,320 --> 00:37:29,150
The world Jewish
Congress, incidentally,

617
00:37:29,150 --> 00:37:36,230
is talking about the list
that two Austrian historians

618
00:37:36,230 --> 00:37:45,500
made about whose property
had been taken away--

619
00:37:45,500 --> 00:37:54,020
which Jews, and also those who
were given token compensation--

620
00:37:54,020 --> 00:37:59,270
forced to sell a business
for 10 marks or something.

621
00:37:59,270 --> 00:38:04,520
And they have a complete
list with numbers.

622
00:38:04,520 --> 00:38:08,780
And if one calls up
this number in New York

623
00:38:08,780 --> 00:38:11,690
of this person at the
world Jewish Congress,

624
00:38:11,690 --> 00:38:13,370
she looks it up while you wait.

625
00:38:13,370 --> 00:38:17,180
And if it's not a common name,
as in my grandfather's case--

626
00:38:17,180 --> 00:38:19,340
the name is Arnold Metzger--

627
00:38:19,340 --> 00:38:23,240

Abraham Metzger-- and that
is a very unusual name

628
00:38:23,240 --> 00:38:25,490
for an Austrian Jew.

629
00:38:25,490 --> 00:38:26,820
She found it immediately.

630
00:38:26,820 --> 00:38:29,480
And you have to know when
he was born approximately,

631
00:38:29,480 --> 00:38:32,840
and I could figure that
out pretty accurately.

632
00:38:32,840 --> 00:38:35,640
But I have no idea what
they took from him.

633
00:38:35,640 --> 00:38:37,910
He was a very reserved
man who always said,

634
00:38:37,910 --> 00:38:42,320
we mustn't be ostentatious--
never owned a car, never lived

635
00:38:42,320 --> 00:38:44,450
in his own house--
lived in an apartment,

636
00:38:44,450 --> 00:38:46,710
but owned some houses somewhere.

637
00:38:46,710 --> 00:38:51,490
I have no idea what
they took away.

638
00:38:51,490 --> 00:38:54,730
Was he your only relative
who was killed by the Nazis?

639

00:38:54,730 --> 00:38:58,330

The only immediate relative
who was killed by the Nazis.

640

00:38:58,330 --> 00:39:02,710

There were any number of his--

641

00:39:02,710 --> 00:39:09,550

642

00:39:09,550 --> 00:39:12,880

My grandfather had a large
family whom I would not see.

643

00:39:12,880 --> 00:39:14,380

We would rarely see them.

644

00:39:14,380 --> 00:39:19,720

645

00:39:19,720 --> 00:39:24,640

I don't think any
of them survived.

646

00:39:24,640 --> 00:39:25,730

That's not quite true.

647

00:39:25,730 --> 00:39:30,440

I know one or two who got
out into this country.

648

00:39:30,440 --> 00:39:33,310

But most of them
were people with whom

649

00:39:33,310 --> 00:39:35,300

I was not in constant touch.

650

00:39:35,300 --> 00:39:38,470

I would see them at
holidays in the synagogue,

651
00:39:38,470 --> 00:39:42,260
or maybe they would
come by my grandfather's

652
00:39:42,260 --> 00:39:44,440
when I happened to be there.

653
00:39:44,440 --> 00:39:50,800
And I think he was supporting
several of them with money,

654
00:39:50,800 --> 00:39:57,400
and food, and what have you,
because he was well-to-do

655
00:39:57,400 --> 00:39:59,230
and they were not.

656
00:39:59,230 --> 00:40:04,180
So I doubt any of them survived.

657
00:40:04,180 --> 00:40:11,340
I also know that my Hungarian
family, my father's family,

658
00:40:11,340 --> 00:40:15,030
a great many were killed.

659
00:40:15,030 --> 00:40:21,750
Now, the information did
not work too competently,

660
00:40:21,750 --> 00:40:25,810
because with many of them,
as I mentioned before,

661
00:40:25,810 --> 00:40:28,410
my paternal grandmother,
for instance, I

662
00:40:28,410 --> 00:40:30,930

saw once in my life
for a brief visit,

663
00:40:30,930 --> 00:40:33,300
and I understand she was killed.

664
00:40:33,300 --> 00:40:37,050
I don't know where or when.

665
00:40:37,050 --> 00:40:43,890
I know that one of
my father's sisters

666
00:40:43,890 --> 00:40:48,510
and her husband, who was an
attorney who didn't practice--

667
00:40:48,510 --> 00:40:52,020
I think they lived in downtown
Vienna a block from St.

668
00:40:52,020 --> 00:40:56,940
Stephen's Cathedral, and
they had a [NON-ENGLISH]..

669
00:40:56,940 --> 00:41:00,600
It's like a hotel--

670
00:41:00,600 --> 00:41:05,220
and we used to go there
as children every Thursday

671
00:41:05,220 --> 00:41:09,150
and play there, my
sister and I. And then

672
00:41:09,150 --> 00:41:13,900
when the Nazis came to
Austria, they went to Hungary.

673
00:41:13,900 --> 00:41:15,900
And I know they perished there.

674

00:41:15,900 --> 00:41:21,030

I know somebody said they
perished in an air raid,

675

00:41:21,030 --> 00:41:23,730

but I don't know
whether that's true.

676

00:41:23,730 --> 00:41:26,400

The fact is they perished--

677

00:41:26,400 --> 00:41:31,990

either by war action or
by a concentration camp.

678

00:41:31,990 --> 00:41:37,050

So I have never researched
the full number.

679

00:41:37,050 --> 00:41:41,470

Of the relatives with
whom I was in touch,

680

00:41:41,470 --> 00:41:44,730

my grandfather was the
only close relative

681

00:41:44,730 --> 00:41:48,270

that I know about, unlike my
wife, where the two children

682

00:41:48,270 --> 00:41:49,530

were the only survivors.

683

00:41:49,530 --> 00:41:53,780

684

00:41:53,780 --> 00:41:56,030

So why did you decide
to finally write

685

00:41:56,030 --> 00:41:58,130

a book after about 50 years?

686

00:41:58,130 --> 00:42:00,890

It's not that I decided
after about 50 years.

687

00:42:00,890 --> 00:42:03,560

I started much earlier,
but I was rather busy

688

00:42:03,560 --> 00:42:06,590

doing a job and all
kinds of other things.

689

00:42:06,590 --> 00:42:14,750

And I first started to write
by tape-recording while walking

690

00:42:14,750 --> 00:42:16,490

the dog.

691

00:42:16,490 --> 00:42:19,100

And I got pretty
good at that when

692

00:42:19,100 --> 00:42:21,620

there was an
interruption to pick up

693

00:42:21,620 --> 00:42:23,540

where I had left off and so on.

694

00:42:23,540 --> 00:42:28,310

And then I found it difficult
to transcribe the tapes.

695

00:42:28,310 --> 00:42:32,040

I thought I couldn't do that
myself because I don't type

696

00:42:32,040 --> 00:42:34,400

very well except two fingers.

697

00:42:34,400 --> 00:42:39,140
And I hired various young women
who were going to do it for me,

698

00:42:39,140 --> 00:42:42,650
and found that they had
several common denominators.

699

00:42:42,650 --> 00:42:45,950
One was that they were
not very good at it,

700

00:42:45,950 --> 00:42:50,510
because they didn't understand
my accent or the proper nouns--

701

00:42:50,510 --> 00:42:53,930
the place names-- and had
no idea how to write them.

702

00:42:53,930 --> 00:42:59,150
And that led to
many blank spots.

703

00:42:59,150 --> 00:43:04,550
And also, they all
were expensive.

704

00:43:04,550 --> 00:43:07,760
So I abandoned that
and was persuaded

705

00:43:07,760 --> 00:43:11,600
to get myself a word
processor and do it myself.

706

00:43:11,600 --> 00:43:15,920
So then it underwent a whole
number of metamorphoses,

707

00:43:15,920 --> 00:43:21,590
because people would say,
don't do it like this,

708
00:43:21,590 --> 00:43:22,700
do it like that.

709
00:43:22,700 --> 00:43:25,100
And some of them, I believed.

710
00:43:25,100 --> 00:43:30,980
So I kept on at it more or
less, and rewrote, and rewrote,

711
00:43:30,980 --> 00:43:32,340
and so forth.

712
00:43:32,340 --> 00:43:38,030
And then I encountered professor
Ambrose, Stephen Ambrose,

713
00:43:38,030 --> 00:43:42,620
who was the head of the
Eisenhower Institute

714
00:43:42,620 --> 00:43:45,620
at the University
of New Orleans.

715
00:43:45,620 --> 00:43:52,310
And he has a D-Day museum, and
he has written a book on D-Day.

716
00:43:52,310 --> 00:43:56,150
And he wanted contributions of
people who had been on D-Day,

717
00:43:56,150 --> 00:43:57,890
and he called us all together.

718
00:43:57,890 --> 00:44:00,470
And we spent a few
days in New Orleans,

719
00:44:00,470 --> 00:44:05,870

including a German tank
commander, and a few eminent

720

00:44:05,870 --> 00:44:10,550
American historians, and a
whole bunch of the 6th Airborne

721

00:44:10,550 --> 00:44:15,050
Division to whom I was
attached as the Maroon Berets,

722

00:44:15,050 --> 00:44:17,660
where we were the Green Berets--

723

00:44:17,660 --> 00:44:20,640
the ones who landed to
guide us on the bridge,

724

00:44:20,640 --> 00:44:23,780
which we reached on
the bicycles, which

725

00:44:23,780 --> 00:44:25,940
was very interesting to
me, because I'd never

726

00:44:25,940 --> 00:44:27,210
talked to any of them.

727

00:44:27,210 --> 00:44:29,120
We didn't talk much
when we were crossing

728

00:44:29,120 --> 00:44:31,850
the bridge, except I
remember them all shouting,

729

00:44:31,850 --> 00:44:35,600
give them hell, when we were
going beyond their position

730

00:44:35,600 --> 00:44:37,280
deeper in.

731
00:44:37,280 --> 00:44:47,000
And I got them all to sign
my book on Pegasus Bridge

732
00:44:47,000 --> 00:44:49,880
that Professor Ambrose wrote.

733
00:44:49,880 --> 00:44:54,560
And one of them wrote, Peter,
next time come by glider.

734
00:44:54,560 --> 00:44:56,960
It's much more comfortable
than by bicycle.

735
00:44:56,960 --> 00:45:00,360

736
00:45:00,360 --> 00:45:03,920
So where were we?

737
00:45:03,920 --> 00:45:07,460

738
00:45:07,460 --> 00:45:09,750
I'm lost at the
moment where we were.

739
00:45:09,750 --> 00:45:11,060
Oh, at the book.

740
00:45:11,060 --> 00:45:15,830
Ambrose liked my contribution
and ran it in installments

741
00:45:15,830 --> 00:45:17,960
throughout his D-Day book
and wrote me a letter

742
00:45:17,960 --> 00:45:20,900
saying he thought it

was the best he's got.

743
00:45:20,900 --> 00:45:23,330
And so I asked him for
advice about the book,

744
00:45:23,330 --> 00:45:26,750
and he gave me good advice.

745
00:45:26,750 --> 00:45:31,160
And then I wrote it up.

746
00:45:31,160 --> 00:45:33,800
And whether it'll ever
see the light of day

747
00:45:33,800 --> 00:45:41,270
remains to be seen, but
it it's out there waiting.

748
00:45:41,270 --> 00:45:43,690
What do you hope
to achieve with it?

749
00:45:43,690 --> 00:45:48,860
My main purpose is
the counterpoint

750
00:45:48,860 --> 00:45:51,290
to rams to the slaughter.

751
00:45:51,290 --> 00:45:57,620
And I think that relatively
few people know about this.

752
00:45:57,620 --> 00:46:06,700
And I think that it would make
Jewish refugees feel good.

753
00:46:06,700 --> 00:46:11,060
I think it would make
Jews in general feel good.

754

00:46:11,060 --> 00:46:19,620

And I think it will
enhance our image--

755

00:46:19,620 --> 00:46:22,890

meaning the Jewish image--

756

00:46:22,890 --> 00:46:24,930

wherever it is [?read?].

757

00:46:24,930 --> 00:46:32,190

After all, there were a large
number of allied nations,

758

00:46:32,190 --> 00:46:35,400

and we were involved
in their liberation.

759

00:46:35,400 --> 00:46:38,770

760

00:46:38,770 --> 00:46:42,550

Unfortunately, none of us
got near the liberation

761

00:46:42,550 --> 00:46:46,270

of a concentration camp,
except one of my friends,

762

00:46:46,270 --> 00:46:49,180

Manfred Gunz from
Borkum in Germany,

763

00:46:49,180 --> 00:46:53,320

who was commissioned in
the Royal Marine Commandos,

764

00:46:53,320 --> 00:46:58,710

and who got his
parents out of TerezÃn.

765

00:46:58,710 --> 00:47:01,870

TerezÅn had just been liberated
by the Russians when he arrived

766
00:47:01,870 --> 00:47:05,180
there two days later.

767
00:47:05,180 --> 00:47:11,810
And he got them to Israel, where
they lived out their lives.

768
00:47:11,810 --> 00:47:16,220
And it was an absolutely
shattering experience

769
00:47:16,220 --> 00:47:18,950
for them and for him.

770
00:47:18,950 --> 00:47:25,910
He says that when he walked
up to the hut in the camp,

771
00:47:25,910 --> 00:47:30,590
he reminded himself of
Hilton Jones' admonition,

772
00:47:30,590 --> 00:47:34,190
don't panic, no matter what.

773
00:47:34,190 --> 00:47:37,760
And he said that's
kept him perpendicular.

774
00:47:37,760 --> 00:47:44,183
It was such an
emotional thing for him.

775
00:47:44,183 --> 00:47:46,350
Do you regret not having
the opportunity to liberate

776
00:47:46,350 --> 00:47:47,410
a concentration camp?

777

00:47:47,410 --> 00:47:52,260

778

00:47:52,260 --> 00:47:56,580

There is an Austrian
who is a refugee who

779

00:47:56,580 --> 00:47:58,180

went back to live in Germany.

780

00:47:58,180 --> 00:47:59,940

And he's lecturing
people, and he

781

00:47:59,940 --> 00:48:04,140

is saying that the only ones
who got any satisfaction

782

00:48:04,140 --> 00:48:06,710

were the ones who were
liberated concentration camps.

783

00:48:06,710 --> 00:48:07,710

I don't agree with that.

784

00:48:07,710 --> 00:48:15,420

I got plenty of satisfaction
doing what we were doing.

785

00:48:15,420 --> 00:48:17,640

The fact that we
didn't encounter

786

00:48:17,640 --> 00:48:23,600

any on our prescribed
route is coincidental.

787

00:48:23,600 --> 00:48:27,330

788

00:48:27,330 --> 00:48:31,440

Perhaps just to draw

this to a conclusion,

789
00:48:31,440 --> 00:48:33,730
if you could comment to a
quote that is from Stephen

790
00:48:33,730 --> 00:48:37,200
Ambrose's book D-Day--

791
00:48:37,200 --> 00:48:40,170
the Nazis, who lived by hate,
had built up a lot of hatred

792
00:48:40,170 --> 00:48:42,210
in Europe in the
past five years.

793
00:48:42,210 --> 00:48:45,570
From Piaget, Masters,
Nomburg, Patheger,

794
00:48:45,570 --> 00:48:47,340
and other young
refugees, the Nazis

795
00:48:47,340 --> 00:48:50,320
were about to get some
of their own back.

796
00:48:50,320 --> 00:48:51,790
Right.

797
00:48:51,790 --> 00:48:54,000
I hope so.

798
00:48:54,000 --> 00:48:55,120
I endorse it.

799
00:48:55,120 --> 00:49:03,420
And I think that it changed
our lives, there's no question.

800

00:49:03,420 --> 00:49:08,940
And I hope that we contributed
something meaningful.

801
00:49:08,940 --> 00:49:11,070
I know we contributed
something meaningful.

802
00:49:11,070 --> 00:49:18,450
Sometimes the prisoner bit
worked incredibly well.

803
00:49:18,450 --> 00:49:23,520
And I'm telling
about those incidents

804
00:49:23,520 --> 00:49:29,640
in the book of where we
really functioned the way we

805
00:49:29,640 --> 00:49:31,680
were supposed to function.

806
00:49:31,680 --> 00:49:37,320
But it went beyond that, because
we were so keen as commando

807
00:49:37,320 --> 00:49:43,800
soldiers, and we were so well
trained by Hilton Jones that we

808
00:49:43,800 --> 00:49:49,920
soon acquired reputations
of competence,

809
00:49:49,920 --> 00:49:54,330
so that patrols which had
nothing in particular to do

810
00:49:54,330 --> 00:50:00,580
with our particular skills of
knowing about the German army--

811

00:50:00,580 --> 00:50:03,450
except, perhaps, being
familiar with the methodology

812
00:50:03,450 --> 00:50:05,480
or something--

813
00:50:05,480 --> 00:50:08,520
nary a command or
patrol would go out

814
00:50:08,520 --> 00:50:10,650
where the person in
charge would not want

815
00:50:10,650 --> 00:50:13,410
to have one or two of us along.

816
00:50:13,410 --> 00:50:19,260
The brigadier stopped it and
said we are too valuable.

817
00:50:19,260 --> 00:50:25,200
And we were only to go out
with his express permission.

818
00:50:25,200 --> 00:50:30,660
So what ensued was a
typical commando solution.

819
00:50:30,660 --> 00:50:34,110
We bootlegged ourselves out.

820
00:50:34,110 --> 00:50:37,350
That is, if somebody
said, oh, I wish

821
00:50:37,350 --> 00:50:39,485
you could come on
that patrol with me,

822
00:50:39,485 --> 00:50:40,920
we'd say, who would

ever find out?

823
00:50:40,920 --> 00:50:43,170
And we'd go.

824
00:50:43,170 --> 00:50:46,770

825
00:50:46,770 --> 00:50:50,850
We were so
self-motivated that we

826
00:50:50,850 --> 00:50:54,750
became reconnaissance
specialists on top

827
00:50:54,750 --> 00:50:58,190
of what we were specialized in.

828
00:50:58,190 --> 00:51:08,220
And I remember being on a patrol
where the function was simply

829
00:51:08,220 --> 00:51:10,020
to watch the Germans--

830
00:51:10,020 --> 00:51:11,910
you could see them
from a certain point

831
00:51:11,910 --> 00:51:13,530
and see what they were doing--

832
00:51:13,530 --> 00:51:16,980
to report anything unusual, an
early warning system in case

833
00:51:16,980 --> 00:51:20,280
they were about to attack.

834
00:51:20,280 --> 00:51:22,950
And I was on patrol

with a Frenchman

835
00:51:22,950 --> 00:51:25,260
who was not in my troop--

836
00:51:25,260 --> 00:51:30,720
three French commando who
spoke not a word of English,

837
00:51:30,720 --> 00:51:35,040
so my high school
French was strained.

838
00:51:35,040 --> 00:51:36,790
But we communicated.

839
00:51:36,790 --> 00:51:39,600
And we said one
day, why don't we

840
00:51:39,600 --> 00:51:43,900
try and go and
snatch a prisoner?

841
00:51:43,900 --> 00:51:47,370
This was by no means what
we were supposed to do.

842
00:51:47,370 --> 00:51:52,320
And we actually didn't bring it
off, but we came awfully close.

843
00:51:52,320 --> 00:51:57,270
And on our own
motivation, we went way

844
00:51:57,270 --> 00:52:00,150
beyond where we
were supposed to go,

845
00:52:00,150 --> 00:52:02,880
simply to see whether
we couldn't do it.

846
00:52:02,880 --> 00:52:05,580
Well, you can appreciate
a Frenchman who

847
00:52:05,580 --> 00:52:10,530
has lost his country,
and I, who have lost

848
00:52:10,530 --> 00:52:14,370
arguably what was my country--

849
00:52:14,370 --> 00:52:18,450
our motivation exceeded
that of many people

850
00:52:18,450 --> 00:52:23,160
who were, even though our
commandos were volunteers,

851
00:52:23,160 --> 00:52:28,830
who would do pretty much
what they were told to do.

852
00:52:28,830 --> 00:52:32,510
Again, it's perhaps a
commander characteristic to do

853
00:52:32,510 --> 00:52:34,170
the extra bit.

854
00:52:34,170 --> 00:52:38,190
But for us, it went
unquestioningly

855
00:52:38,190 --> 00:52:43,360
that you did what you
could, not what you had to.

856
00:52:43,360 --> 00:52:47,750
The Frenchman and I
found a booby trap

857

00:52:47,750 --> 00:52:51,800

that was laid for people
coming along the path.

858

00:52:51,800 --> 00:52:54,680

And he saw it-- he
had very sharp eyes.

859

00:52:54,680 --> 00:52:58,870

And then I started to lift it.

860

00:52:58,870 --> 00:53:02,260

He was very much
against that, because he

861

00:53:02,260 --> 00:53:05,470

thought it might be booby
trapped within the booby trap.

862

00:53:05,470 --> 00:53:07,690

That is, if you lift it,
it'd blow up, you see?

863

00:53:07,690 --> 00:53:13,960

And there was enough explosives
to blow up 12 people, you know?

864

00:53:13,960 --> 00:53:15,570

Here we were two.

865

00:53:15,570 --> 00:53:19,900

I told him to lie down face
down a reasonably safe distance

866

00:53:19,900 --> 00:53:27,100

away, and I was going to examine
carefully whether it could be

867

00:53:27,100 --> 00:53:29,740

lifted, and then I'd lift it.

868

00:53:29,740 --> 00:53:31,630

And I put it back.

869
00:53:31,630 --> 00:53:34,090
I thought it would be
interesting to see what they

870
00:53:34,090 --> 00:53:37,360
were doing in the way of
such contraptions, which

871
00:53:37,360 --> 00:53:39,790
was an improvised contraption.

872
00:53:39,790 --> 00:53:44,170
And I found our demolitions
officer a little anxious,

873
00:53:44,170 --> 00:53:47,140
and he said, take it
out of here quickly.

874
00:53:47,140 --> 00:53:50,150
And I said, I've been
carrying it for the last hour.

875
00:53:50,150 --> 00:53:53,500
So it's not going to blow
up unless we set it off--

876
00:53:53,500 --> 00:53:57,010
didn't want it in his quarters.

877
00:53:57,010 --> 00:54:01,750
But all this, again,
is really trivial

878
00:54:01,750 --> 00:54:08,230
to demonstrate how eager
we were to do our bit.

879
00:54:08,230 --> 00:54:12,070
And all the pent-up
frustration of having

880
00:54:12,070 --> 00:54:20,440
been an abused minority
exposed to anti-Semitic

881
00:54:20,440 --> 00:54:26,800
action, and arbitrary
arrest, and arbitrary abuse,

882
00:54:26,800 --> 00:54:33,190
and then a frequently
penniless refugee

883
00:54:33,190 --> 00:54:35,770
where the refugee
committee handed out

884
00:54:35,770 --> 00:54:38,890
a card, which I have
an intent to publish

885
00:54:38,890 --> 00:54:43,590
in my book, that
says, be considerate

886
00:54:43,590 --> 00:54:45,450
of your British hosts.

887
00:54:45,450 --> 00:54:47,790
Do not damage their furniture.

888
00:54:47,790 --> 00:54:51,420
Do not speak German
in the street,

889
00:54:51,420 --> 00:54:54,030
particularly in the evening.

890
00:54:54,030 --> 00:54:56,350
I'm not quite sure
what that means,

891

00:54:56,350 --> 00:54:58,530
but you can see which
way it's blowing.

892
00:54:58,530 --> 00:55:06,300
And then being interned
as an enemy alien, when

893
00:55:06,300 --> 00:55:10,320
we were the victims,
and understanding

894
00:55:10,320 --> 00:55:14,540
why they wanted to intern
us, so we were their friends.

895
00:55:14,540 --> 00:55:19,180
We helped them with [INAUDIBLE].

896
00:55:19,180 --> 00:55:22,480
The superannuated British
soldiers who were guarding us

897
00:55:22,480 --> 00:55:25,020
were on the watchtower
and fell asleep,

898
00:55:25,020 --> 00:55:27,420
we would throw papers
up to wake them

899
00:55:27,420 --> 00:55:30,210
up so that they wouldn't get
in trouble with the Sergeant,

900
00:55:30,210 --> 00:55:32,070
and so on, you see?

901
00:55:32,070 --> 00:55:35,220
And so we cooperated.

902
00:55:35,220 --> 00:55:38,040
And then being in the

Pioneer Corps, which

903

00:55:38,040 --> 00:55:41,490

was, to us, the

bottom of the barrel,

904

00:55:41,490 --> 00:55:49,110

and finally, like a

caterpillar to butterfly,

905

00:55:49,110 --> 00:55:54,420

becoming elite soldiers, and

well-trained, and confident

906

00:55:54,420 --> 00:55:57,030

transformed us.

907

00:55:57,030 --> 00:56:00,330

And I think people ought

to know about that.

908

00:56:00,330 --> 00:56:04,000