

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,610

2
00:00:02,610 --> 00:00:06,780
This is tape 2,
side A of the USHMM

3
00:00:06,780 --> 00:00:10,140
interview with Milton Shurr.

4
00:00:10,140 --> 00:00:14,910
So what I did in that situation
is just put all the watches

5
00:00:14,910 --> 00:00:19,200
and objects on a
table, and I called

6
00:00:19,200 --> 00:00:24,090
in the heads of all the ethnic
groups except the Russians,

7
00:00:24,090 --> 00:00:26,640
who I felt had already
had their share.

8
00:00:26,640 --> 00:00:29,400
And we just divided it up
like a pie in various pieces

9
00:00:29,400 --> 00:00:31,960
and each kapo took a
group, because I figured

10
00:00:31,960 --> 00:00:36,840
that these watches and
jewels and whatnot would

11
00:00:36,840 --> 00:00:39,780
be a means of enabling
some of these poor souls

12
00:00:39,780 --> 00:00:43,980
to sort of buy a stake in
wherever they were going.

13
00:00:43,980 --> 00:00:48,690
And that just solved that in
a practical, realistic way.

14
00:00:48,690 --> 00:00:58,470

15
00:00:58,470 --> 00:01:00,540
There were times when--

16
00:01:00,540 --> 00:01:03,680
well, these were some
interesting things.

17
00:01:03,680 --> 00:01:07,260
One of my fellow officers
who was senior to me

18
00:01:07,260 --> 00:01:10,380
spoke excellent German,
and all the refugees

19
00:01:10,380 --> 00:01:12,850
were talking to him.

20
00:01:12,850 --> 00:01:14,670
You know, we wanted to go here.

21
00:01:14,670 --> 00:01:16,190
We wanted to go there.

22
00:01:16,190 --> 00:01:18,660
But we heard that I may
have relatives still

23
00:01:18,660 --> 00:01:21,120
surviving in such
a camp and so on.

24

00:01:21,120 --> 00:01:25,020

And he was absolutely
bedeviled by these people,

25

00:01:25,020 --> 00:01:29,970

and in the course of a
week, he finally became

26

00:01:29,970 --> 00:01:36,240

mentally disturbed and had
to be sent away to treatment.

27

00:01:36,240 --> 00:01:39,960

And they would talk to me, and
I would refuse to talk to them.

28

00:01:39,960 --> 00:01:42,240

I said, there's
nothing I can Do.

29

00:01:42,240 --> 00:01:44,850

I said, you'll have to wait
until the Red Cross or somebody

30

00:01:44,850 --> 00:01:46,170

else comes in to help you.

31

00:01:46,170 --> 00:01:48,600

I said, there's
nothing I can do.

32

00:01:48,600 --> 00:01:51,210

And I refused.

33

00:01:51,210 --> 00:01:52,710

I mean, I felt sorry
for the people.

34

00:01:52,710 --> 00:01:54,668

It was nothing-- it's
just a matter of reality.

35

00:01:54,668 --> 00:02:01,380

My job was to provide food and supplies for 15,000 survivors.

36

00:02:01,380 --> 00:02:05,310

Initially, people were dying in the rate of 300 a day

37

00:02:05,310 --> 00:02:07,710

from malnutrition and typhus.

38

00:02:07,710 --> 00:02:12,090

Some of the attempts when the Third Army came in,

39

00:02:12,090 --> 00:02:15,660

they brought in a sanitation crew

40

00:02:15,660 --> 00:02:18,160

which sprayed everybody with DDT,

41

00:02:18,160 --> 00:02:21,990

and that put a stop to the typhus epidemic.

42

00:02:21,990 --> 00:02:24,780

But some of the people were dying simply

43

00:02:24,780 --> 00:02:31,590

because they couldn't even inject any fluids or nutrition

44

00:02:31,590 --> 00:02:32,340

into their veins.

45

00:02:32,340 --> 00:02:33,660

They were just so depleted.

46

00:02:33,660 --> 00:02:35,700

They just stopped.

47

00:02:35,700 --> 00:02:37,380

So the death rate
was about 300 a day,

48

00:02:37,380 --> 00:02:39,330

and it gradually tapered off.

49

00:02:39,330 --> 00:02:45,750

And meantime, all the people
from the Allied countries,

50

00:02:45,750 --> 00:02:48,430

displaced persons like us,
immediately were sent back.

51

00:02:48,430 --> 00:02:51,180

English, there were even
some American officers who

52

00:02:51,180 --> 00:02:54,200

had been there, flyers who
had been at [PLACE NAME]

53

00:02:54,200 --> 00:02:58,740

and were arrested and thrown
in a concentration camp

54

00:02:58,740 --> 00:03:00,900

because they weren't in uniform.

55

00:03:00,900 --> 00:03:06,440

And then one day, in comes in
two Red Cross personnel, a man

56

00:03:06,440 --> 00:03:11,400

and a woman, and they wanted
to know what they could do.

57

00:03:11,400 --> 00:03:15,630

Meantime, we had acquired a
lot of typewriters and so on,

58

00:03:15,630 --> 00:03:18,900

and so we found an office
for the Red Cross people.

59

00:03:18,900 --> 00:03:22,350

And we told them,
here's this horrible job

60

00:03:22,350 --> 00:03:25,680

of trying to relocate people.

61

00:03:25,680 --> 00:03:29,040

That was just made for Red
Cross, and they were delighted.

62

00:03:29,040 --> 00:03:30,930

I never saw them again.

63

00:03:30,930 --> 00:03:34,110

Then another couple came in
and they were from the Joint

64

00:03:34,110 --> 00:03:36,022

Distribution Committee.

65

00:03:36,022 --> 00:03:36,980

Well, what could we do?

66

00:03:36,980 --> 00:03:38,740

We want to do something.

67

00:03:38,740 --> 00:03:39,940

I said, fine.

68

00:03:39,940 --> 00:03:45,090

I said, I understand there
are about 2000 young boys

69

00:03:45,090 --> 00:03:49,140

in the regular barracks,
not the wooden things

70
00:03:49,140 --> 00:03:50,730
but the regular barracks.

71
00:03:50,730 --> 00:03:53,680
And I said, all I
know is that we're

72
00:03:53,680 --> 00:03:55,840
taking care of them in
terms of food and so on,

73
00:03:55,840 --> 00:04:00,240
but they really need
somebody to work with them

74
00:04:00,240 --> 00:04:01,420
to find out their relatives.

75
00:04:01,420 --> 00:04:03,430
You know, it's a
terrible situation.

76
00:04:03,430 --> 00:04:06,390
So I never saw these 2,000 boys.

77
00:04:06,390 --> 00:04:07,440
And they went over there.

78
00:04:07,440 --> 00:04:10,770
Again, I gave them an
office, gave equipments.

79
00:04:10,770 --> 00:04:12,330
And off they ran,
and they took care

80
00:04:12,330 --> 00:04:17,550
of the 2,000 Jewish boys who
were five to 12 years of age.

81
00:04:17,550 --> 00:04:20,760

I only learned probably
a few months ago

82
00:04:20,760 --> 00:04:24,210
that Eli Wiesel is one
of those survivors, which

83
00:04:24,210 --> 00:04:25,800
made me feel good.

84
00:04:25,800 --> 00:04:29,340
At least something
I did was important.

85
00:04:29,340 --> 00:04:31,260
But that's pretty
much how it ran.

86
00:04:31,260 --> 00:04:34,170

87
00:04:34,170 --> 00:04:44,510
Buchenwald was basically
a concentration camp

88
00:04:44,510 --> 00:04:49,580
for political prisoners.

89
00:04:49,580 --> 00:04:52,190
Leon Blum for example,
was there at one time,

90
00:04:52,190 --> 00:04:56,150
plus a lot of other
Allied personnel.

91
00:04:56,150 --> 00:05:02,280
And it had a lot of
some convicts there,

92
00:05:02,280 --> 00:05:06,120
German convicts, plus
displaced persons,

93
00:05:06,120 --> 00:05:08,055
plus refugees of various camps.

94
00:05:08,055 --> 00:05:12,780

95
00:05:12,780 --> 00:05:16,290
There was some unnecessary
medical experiments.

96
00:05:16,290 --> 00:05:19,230
Dumping people in
frozen water to see

97
00:05:19,230 --> 00:05:20,760
how long they could survive.

98
00:05:20,760 --> 00:05:22,850
Did you know about
that while you at them?

99
00:05:22,850 --> 00:05:24,360
Yeah.

100
00:05:24,360 --> 00:05:28,380
I mean the prisoners would
tell me these things.

101
00:05:28,380 --> 00:05:32,640
Injections of phenol, carbolic
acid, into the spinal cord

102
00:05:32,640 --> 00:05:35,582
to see what would happen.

103
00:05:35,582 --> 00:05:36,540
And so on and so forth.

104
00:05:36,540 --> 00:05:37,290
That was going on.

105

00:05:37,290 --> 00:05:40,860

106

00:05:40,860 --> 00:05:47,070

I had some pictures taken,
and the museum has them.

107

00:05:47,070 --> 00:05:50,610

And they had about
three or four ovens,

108

00:05:50,610 --> 00:05:57,380

and when someone died or was
murdered they were cremated.

109

00:05:57,380 --> 00:05:59,550

The ashes were used
for fertilizer.

110

00:05:59,550 --> 00:06:02,475

The teeth, if they had
gold in their teeth,

111

00:06:02,475 --> 00:06:03,820

it was knocked out.

112

00:06:03,820 --> 00:06:08,970

And again, and so
forth, like had.

113

00:06:08,970 --> 00:06:15,700

And the reason the bodies piled
up is they ran out of coal.

114

00:06:15,700 --> 00:06:18,510

That was the reason
the bodies piled up.

115

00:06:18,510 --> 00:06:23,760

And of course, in the
early days the army

116

00:06:23,760 --> 00:06:28,270
had the Burgermeister of Weimar.

117
00:06:28,270 --> 00:06:32,730
And a lot of citizens come
in and help bury the people.

118
00:06:32,730 --> 00:06:36,940
And it was that
kind of situation.

119
00:06:36,940 --> 00:06:40,035
So the people in the surrounding
areas knew what was going on?

120
00:06:40,035 --> 00:06:41,910
Well, they claimed they
didn't know anything,

121
00:06:41,910 --> 00:06:44,660
but they knew after
they'd walk through there.

122
00:06:44,660 --> 00:06:49,290
And of course, a lot of
Americans and diplomatic people

123
00:06:49,290 --> 00:06:50,607
went through there.

124
00:06:50,607 --> 00:06:51,940
And I took a few of them around.

125
00:06:51,940 --> 00:06:54,360
I remember Jimmy Doolittle.

126
00:06:54,360 --> 00:06:57,900
Very impressive man.

127
00:06:57,900 --> 00:07:00,275
I took him around, and I
took a few other officers

128

00:07:00,275 --> 00:07:06,990
and some diplomatic personnel
that came through and so on.

129

00:07:06,990 --> 00:07:11,640
One time, some
American soldiers who

130

00:07:11,640 --> 00:07:14,470
had made a tour of
the camp, told me,

131

00:07:14,470 --> 00:07:16,030
oh well we're
having a great time.

132

00:07:16,030 --> 00:07:24,080
We saw a Polish SS
soldier being beaten up.

133

00:07:24,080 --> 00:07:26,500
And I said, what?

134

00:07:26,500 --> 00:07:36,470
So I immediately made sure
that the MPs were notified.

135

00:07:36,470 --> 00:07:39,730
They liberated this
poor SS soul who

136

00:07:39,730 --> 00:07:43,030
was being beaten up
periodically for the edification

137

00:07:43,030 --> 00:07:46,420
of the American soldiers'
visitors, and so on.

138

00:07:46,420 --> 00:07:48,220
But that was a rare thing.

139

00:07:48,220 --> 00:07:49,960
What I understood was that the--

140
00:07:49,960 --> 00:07:52,630

141
00:07:52,630 --> 00:07:54,940
apparently there was some
kind of an uprising there,

142
00:07:54,940 --> 00:07:58,810
but I suspect when the SS heard
the Americans were coming down

143
00:07:58,810 --> 00:08:00,500
the pike, they took off.

144
00:08:00,500 --> 00:08:04,630
And so the uprising I'm
sure wasn't a pitched battle

145
00:08:04,630 --> 00:08:06,580
by any accounts.

146
00:08:06,580 --> 00:08:12,025
But the prisoners did,
they caught the dogs.

147
00:08:12,025 --> 00:08:13,187
As many dogs as they could.

148
00:08:13,187 --> 00:08:14,270
They'd just strangle them.

149
00:08:14,270 --> 00:08:16,000
They just hated the dogs.

150
00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:18,070
There was a lot of
terrible instances.

151
00:08:18,070 --> 00:08:20,260

Somebody would throw a--

152
00:08:20,260 --> 00:08:24,160
a prisoner I was
asked to throw his hat

153
00:08:24,160 --> 00:08:29,635
towards the barbed wires, the
double fence of barbed wire.

154
00:08:29,635 --> 00:08:31,810
And as they went to the
fence to recoup his hat,

155
00:08:31,810 --> 00:08:33,409
that they shoot him.

156
00:08:33,409 --> 00:08:36,610
It was that kind of society.

157
00:08:36,610 --> 00:08:37,480
Life was cheap.

158
00:08:37,480 --> 00:08:41,980
The thing that impressed me
over and beyond the cruelty

159
00:08:41,980 --> 00:08:45,130
of the situation--

160
00:08:45,130 --> 00:08:48,640
skinning of people,
maltreatment, and so on--

161
00:08:48,640 --> 00:08:50,380
was the cheapness of life.

162
00:08:50,380 --> 00:08:53,680
Life didn't mean
anything to the Germans.

163
00:08:53,680 --> 00:09:00,130

It was just people who you
wasted away for no good reason.

164
00:09:00,130 --> 00:09:08,170
That was the thing that was the
biggest thing that affected me.

165
00:09:08,170 --> 00:09:13,090
There was a ante-room
in that just area right

166
00:09:13,090 --> 00:09:15,790
near the crematorium.

167
00:09:15,790 --> 00:09:19,280
And there were a
couple of meat hooks,

168
00:09:19,280 --> 00:09:26,300
and they would take and tie the
hands of a prisoner behind him

169
00:09:26,300 --> 00:09:28,550
and hang him on the meat hooks.

170
00:09:28,550 --> 00:09:33,650
And you could see the deep
furrows in this stuccoed wall

171
00:09:33,650 --> 00:09:38,870
where people in their agony
were scratching the wall.

172
00:09:38,870 --> 00:09:41,550
Those are the kinds of
things that are indelible.

173
00:09:41,550 --> 00:09:45,140
There were probably many other
things that happened there.

174
00:09:45,140 --> 00:09:47,300
You mentioned that you

were collecting things

175
00:09:47,300 --> 00:09:50,510
like the lampshades.

176
00:09:50,510 --> 00:09:54,050
I collected just a couple of
pieces, which I turned over.

177
00:09:54,050 --> 00:10:00,650
And again, about a month after
the capture or liberation,

178
00:10:00,650 --> 00:10:02,480
we had a war crimes
group come in

179
00:10:02,480 --> 00:10:05,000
and turned things over to them.

180
00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:09,020
Right, so they came in and they
took photographs of the furrows

181
00:10:09,020 --> 00:10:10,160
in the wall.

182
00:10:10,160 --> 00:10:11,160
I was too busy.

183
00:10:11,160 --> 00:10:12,800
I couldn't handle
all these things.

184
00:10:12,800 --> 00:10:14,120
And what I did--

185
00:10:14,120 --> 00:10:17,150
maybe this is because I
was, one, mature, one,

186
00:10:17,150 --> 00:10:20,240

had a lot of experience in
community organizations.

187
00:10:20,240 --> 00:10:25,770
And I worked through my
delegation of authority

188
00:10:25,770 --> 00:10:29,870
and so on and made use
of the camp personnel

189
00:10:29,870 --> 00:10:32,840
where we could and
our own soldiers.

190
00:10:32,840 --> 00:10:35,510
But our soldiers
were engaged pretty

191
00:10:35,510 --> 00:10:40,920
much in the whole question of
providing us with equipment,

192
00:10:40,920 --> 00:10:42,950
and so forth and so
on, and picking up

193
00:10:42,950 --> 00:10:44,630
the food and the clothing.

194
00:10:44,630 --> 00:10:46,370
And we had a warehouse
where we keep

195
00:10:46,370 --> 00:10:50,160
things locked up and so on.

196
00:10:50,160 --> 00:10:56,090
And finally, we'd gone as far
north as Leipzig and way down

197
00:10:56,090 --> 00:10:59,810
into Bavaria to pick

up clothing and food.

198

00:10:59,810 --> 00:11:03,260

Anywhere we heard if there was
an SS barracks, we'd go in.

199

00:11:03,260 --> 00:11:07,280

I remember one place, we
picked up loads of cloth.

200

00:11:07,280 --> 00:11:11,630

Fine worsted cloth, which we
brought back to the tailors.

201

00:11:11,630 --> 00:11:13,880

There were tailors at the
camp, and they made clothing

202

00:11:13,880 --> 00:11:15,330

for themselves.

203

00:11:15,330 --> 00:11:18,740

So anything the sergeant
and I thought was useful,

204

00:11:18,740 --> 00:11:21,620

could be useful, we just
picked up and brought back

205

00:11:21,620 --> 00:11:23,310

to the camp.

206

00:11:23,310 --> 00:11:26,960

And we were really--

207

00:11:26,960 --> 00:11:32,530

I made a rough
estimate that we had

208

00:11:32,530 --> 00:11:34,700

about 15,000 survivors maybe.

209

00:11:34,700 --> 00:11:37,900
And it was fluctuating
because newcomers came in

210
00:11:37,900 --> 00:11:41,845
as the people went west, some
were preparing to go east,

211
00:11:41,845 --> 00:11:44,290
and we picked them up.

212
00:11:44,290 --> 00:11:48,980
And I estimated
at \$1 a day food,

213
00:11:48,980 --> 00:11:51,460
which is very conservative,
that I probably

214
00:11:51,460 --> 00:11:55,330
saved the United States
government \$1 million

215
00:11:55,330 --> 00:11:55,960
running around.

216
00:11:55,960 --> 00:11:59,170

217
00:11:59,170 --> 00:12:02,340
How long, how many months
were you in Buchenwald?

218
00:12:02,340 --> 00:12:04,810
We were there for two
and a half months.

219
00:12:04,810 --> 00:12:08,860
From about April 15
to July 1st, the area

220
00:12:08,860 --> 00:12:10,660
was turned over to the Russians.

221
00:12:10,660 --> 00:12:13,580
That was part of a
agreed-upon thing.

222
00:12:13,580 --> 00:12:17,800
Now in that time, could you see
the prisoners gaining weight?

223
00:12:17,800 --> 00:12:18,700
Oh yes.

224
00:12:18,700 --> 00:12:19,600
Oh yeah.

225
00:12:19,600 --> 00:12:21,160
Oh sure.

226
00:12:21,160 --> 00:12:24,810
Matter of fact,
our camp Buchenwald

227
00:12:24,810 --> 00:12:28,550
was so efficient in cooking
and baking and so on,

228
00:12:28,550 --> 00:12:31,660
that some camps
that ran out of food

229
00:12:31,660 --> 00:12:37,480
would come to Buchenwald to
get loaves of bread for them.

230
00:12:37,480 --> 00:12:38,800
I don't know if we--

231
00:12:38,800 --> 00:12:41,600
I don't think we got
anything from the troops.

232
00:12:41,600 --> 00:12:44,020

And we should have
been provided rations,

233
00:12:44,020 --> 00:12:48,520
but we just got into
this cycle of looting

234
00:12:48,520 --> 00:12:53,440
to find food for the camp
that we just kept going.

235
00:12:53,440 --> 00:12:57,160
And finally, at about--

236
00:12:57,160 --> 00:13:01,300

237
00:13:01,300 --> 00:13:04,285
so we were there
half of April and May

238
00:13:04,285 --> 00:13:09,900
and maybe about
the middle of June,

239
00:13:09,900 --> 00:13:13,170
beginning of June,
middle of June,

240
00:13:13,170 --> 00:13:15,180
it was getting pretty
difficult to find food.

241
00:13:15,180 --> 00:13:18,710
We'd pretty much cleaned
out the various warehouses,

242
00:13:18,710 --> 00:13:21,600
and the Germans were
also protesting.

243
00:13:21,600 --> 00:13:25,440
We were taking any

greenery that we could get.

244
00:13:25,440 --> 00:13:27,170
Green stuffs.

245
00:13:27,170 --> 00:13:32,200
And the captain told me,
you've got to stop this.

246
00:13:32,200 --> 00:13:33,310
And I'd say, yes captain.

247
00:13:33,310 --> 00:13:37,170
Then we kept going,
because I felt in my mind,

248
00:13:37,170 --> 00:13:39,370
these prisoners had a priority.

249
00:13:39,370 --> 00:13:42,270
They had suffered long enough.

250
00:13:42,270 --> 00:13:45,375
What was the makeup
of the prisoners?

251
00:13:45,375 --> 00:13:47,550
You said they were mostly
political prisoners,

252
00:13:47,550 --> 00:13:50,820
but were they a lot
of Poles, Germans?

253
00:13:50,820 --> 00:13:52,860
Well, they were
political prisoners,

254
00:13:52,860 --> 00:13:58,860
and there were some
criminals, German criminals.

255

00:13:58,860 --> 00:14:03,300
The others were political
prisoners and Jews

256
00:14:03,300 --> 00:14:06,970
and gypsies and Seventh
Day Adventists and so on.

257
00:14:06,970 --> 00:14:15,930
And they were from Poland,
Russia, Yugoslavia, wherever.

258
00:14:15,930 --> 00:14:20,060
And there were some Germans.

259
00:14:20,060 --> 00:14:23,400
There were some Allied
personnel in there.

260
00:14:23,400 --> 00:14:25,350
Anybody caught out of
uniform could be thrown

261
00:14:25,350 --> 00:14:27,210
in the concentration camp.

262
00:14:27,210 --> 00:14:32,610
And so there were people-- of
course, everybody wore a patch.

263
00:14:32,610 --> 00:14:35,160
If you're a homosexual,
you had a pink patch.

264
00:14:35,160 --> 00:14:37,650
If you're a Jew, you
had a yellow star.

265
00:14:37,650 --> 00:14:40,250
If you're somebody
else, you had--

266
00:14:40,250 --> 00:14:45,000

and I turned over to Buchenwald,
I had some clean patches.

267
00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:48,550
And I had some clean
camp money, paper money,

268
00:14:48,550 --> 00:14:50,700
that I turned over to them.

269
00:14:50,700 --> 00:14:53,310
And they have a little
plaque, about 20,

270
00:14:53,310 --> 00:14:56,240
30 names of people
who were donors.

271
00:14:56,240 --> 00:14:57,825
And I was one of the donors.

272
00:14:57,825 --> 00:15:01,140
In fact, over the years,
a lot of the stuff

273
00:15:01,140 --> 00:15:04,590
got thrown away as I
moved from job to job.

274
00:15:04,590 --> 00:15:06,270
But they still had a few things.

275
00:15:06,270 --> 00:15:09,040
I turned things
over to the museum.

276
00:15:09,040 --> 00:15:11,250
So the people continued
to wear their patches

277
00:15:11,250 --> 00:15:12,600
while they in the DP camps?

278
00:15:12,600 --> 00:15:13,320
Oh yeah, sure.

279
00:15:13,320 --> 00:15:13,820
Why?

280
00:15:13,820 --> 00:15:15,630
And uniforms.

281
00:15:15,630 --> 00:15:18,090
Why did they continue to wear
their patches, do you think?

282
00:15:18,090 --> 00:15:20,390
Well for one, they
had no other clothing.

283
00:15:20,390 --> 00:15:21,770
That was number one.

284
00:15:21,770 --> 00:15:25,535
And they were proud
of being Jews,

285
00:15:25,535 --> 00:15:31,920
or proud of being Czechs
or Yugoslavs or whatever.

286
00:15:31,920 --> 00:15:34,020
We did try to get
clothing for them,

287
00:15:34,020 --> 00:15:36,320
and we did get some clothing
for a good many of them.

288
00:15:36,320 --> 00:15:38,200
We had shoes and so on.

289
00:15:38,200 --> 00:15:39,660
We even acquired some--

290

00:15:39,660 --> 00:15:43,380
for those who were going back
to their respective countries

291

00:15:43,380 --> 00:15:48,630
eventually, we provided
paper suitcases for them.

292

00:15:48,630 --> 00:15:50,580
Anything that we could
use, we picked up.

293

00:15:50,580 --> 00:15:53,290

294

00:15:53,290 --> 00:15:55,020
And I think people were--

295

00:15:55,020 --> 00:15:57,540
I think the prisoners
themselves were satisfied.

296

00:15:57,540 --> 00:16:04,500
Well, our Czech interpreter
was the son of an owner of one

297

00:16:04,500 --> 00:16:08,280
of the large Czech
steel mills in Pilsen.

298

00:16:08,280 --> 00:16:12,120
And he was half Jewish.

299

00:16:12,120 --> 00:16:15,150
His father was part of
the Czech government

300

00:16:15,150 --> 00:16:18,250
and exiled in London.

301

00:16:18,250 --> 00:16:21,720
His mother, brother, and

sister were murdered,

302

00:16:21,720 --> 00:16:23,970
sent to a concentration camp.

303

00:16:23,970 --> 00:16:26,610
And he was thrown
into Buchenwald.

304

00:16:26,610 --> 00:16:30,690
And the only reason
he survived he says,

305

00:16:30,690 --> 00:16:35,490
was that he was befriended
by the communists,

306

00:16:35,490 --> 00:16:39,990
and he was able to eat enough
potato peelings while he was

307

00:16:39,990 --> 00:16:42,165
peeling potatoes to survive.

308

00:16:42,165 --> 00:16:47,090

309

00:16:47,090 --> 00:16:53,130
And so finally, I would say
end of June, middle of June

310

00:16:53,130 --> 00:16:55,400
and so on, he wanted
to go back to Prague

311

00:16:55,400 --> 00:16:58,280
to see if any of his
friends were alive.

312

00:16:58,280 --> 00:17:02,430
So I asked the
captain if I could go,

313

00:17:02,430 --> 00:17:08,060

and so I outfitted
him up, dressed him up

314

00:17:08,060 --> 00:17:12,230

as a sergeant with
.45, and wrote out

315

00:17:12,230 --> 00:17:16,310

orders saying I
was supposed to go

316

00:17:16,310 --> 00:17:19,240

to Prague to arrange for the
repatriation of the Czechs.

317

00:17:19,240 --> 00:17:21,950

They had gone on
previously a week.

318

00:17:21,950 --> 00:17:23,450

But that was the excuse then.

319

00:17:23,450 --> 00:17:29,890

So we got a Jeep, and
we drove to Pilsen.

320

00:17:29,890 --> 00:17:40,070

And we had our orders signed
by the Soviet liaison officer.

321

00:17:40,070 --> 00:17:43,580

And we then drove between
Pilsen and Prague,

322

00:17:43,580 --> 00:17:45,200

and every couple
of miles we were

323

00:17:45,200 --> 00:17:50,240

stopped by a Russian, some
who couldn't even read.

324

00:17:50,240 --> 00:17:53,210

They would turn this thing,
our orders, upside down.

325

00:17:53,210 --> 00:17:56,150

Soon as they saw the hammer
and sickle, they waved us on.

326

00:17:56,150 --> 00:18:01,190

We got into Prague, and
we drove into a courtyard

327

00:18:01,190 --> 00:18:02,840

of an apartment house.

328

00:18:02,840 --> 00:18:05,060

Took the four
wheels off the Jeep,

329

00:18:05,060 --> 00:18:11,360

hid them because the Russians
had a great fondness for Jeeps.

330

00:18:11,360 --> 00:18:17,190

And so the next few days,
I was the PX officer.

331

00:18:17,190 --> 00:18:20,320

I never smoked, so I had
extra cartons of cigarettes

332

00:18:20,320 --> 00:18:22,273

and liquor and whatnot.

333

00:18:22,273 --> 00:18:23,690

I used to have to
lay out my money

334

00:18:23,690 --> 00:18:26,025

and go and order the things.

335

00:18:26,025 --> 00:18:28,370

And the enlisted men,
during the whole period

336
00:18:28,370 --> 00:18:32,120
that I was PX officer,
always drew a full ration

337
00:18:32,120 --> 00:18:34,340
of liquor and everything else.

338
00:18:34,340 --> 00:18:38,790
Because if the French liaison
people didn't pay for things

339
00:18:38,790 --> 00:18:42,380
and show up, they didn't
get to draw their rations.

340
00:18:42,380 --> 00:18:45,460
So I had some extra cigarettes
and liquor or so on.

341
00:18:45,460 --> 00:18:48,980
I turned it over to this
fellow to give to his friends.

342
00:18:48,980 --> 00:18:52,700
Well we got into Prague.

343
00:18:52,700 --> 00:18:56,020
One of the former prisoners
was very emphatic.

344
00:18:56,020 --> 00:18:58,400
He wanted me to
come to his house,

345
00:18:58,400 --> 00:19:01,040
and he wanted to do
anything possible for me.

346
00:19:01,040 --> 00:19:04,430
So I visited him,

and I said, well

347

00:19:04,430 --> 00:19:07,670

I'd appreciate a
typical Czech meal.

348

00:19:07,670 --> 00:19:11,930

So his mother cooked me
a typical Czech meal.

349

00:19:11,930 --> 00:19:13,880

And it was interesting.

350

00:19:13,880 --> 00:19:17,990

I was contemplating here,
I was being befriended

351

00:19:17,990 --> 00:19:21,680

by an ex-prisoner, who
not many days ago was

352

00:19:21,680 --> 00:19:23,660

living in the camp.

353

00:19:23,660 --> 00:19:27,650

And his other friends he had,
they brought me souvenirs.

354

00:19:27,650 --> 00:19:32,345

I had a couple of
cameras, a violin,

355

00:19:32,345 --> 00:19:35,850

because they heard I played
the violin and so on.

356

00:19:35,850 --> 00:19:39,340

But they were so
overjoyed, you know?

357

00:19:39,340 --> 00:19:42,330

So there was appreciation of
what the Americans did too.

358
00:19:42,330 --> 00:19:43,720
There's no question about it.

359
00:19:43,720 --> 00:19:46,370
The Czechs bitterly
hated the Russians.

360
00:19:46,370 --> 00:19:48,940
The Russians would stop
people in the streets,

361
00:19:48,940 --> 00:19:53,560
strip them of watches,
jewelry, anything they had.

362
00:19:53,560 --> 00:19:56,690
If you were driving a
car, they stopped the car,

363
00:19:56,690 --> 00:19:58,790
and take the car.

364
00:19:58,790 --> 00:20:00,840
And so on and so forth.

365
00:20:00,840 --> 00:20:02,420
So it was interesting.

366
00:20:02,420 --> 00:20:06,230
Prague was an incredibly
beautiful city.

367
00:20:06,230 --> 00:20:12,020
It was virtually untouched, and
these Czech people just drove

368
00:20:12,020 --> 00:20:13,430
me around and I saw the sights.

369
00:20:13,430 --> 00:20:15,750
It really was quite remarkable.

370
00:20:15,750 --> 00:20:19,970
And then we drove back to
camp a couple days later.

371
00:20:19,970 --> 00:20:27,290
And then on July 4th,
the camp was-- meantime,

372
00:20:27,290 --> 00:20:30,140
there was a constant
change of personnel.

373
00:20:30,140 --> 00:20:33,230
The Poles had the
option of going

374
00:20:33,230 --> 00:20:37,820
to England or back to Poland.

375
00:20:37,820 --> 00:20:39,990
The Russians didn't
have any option.

376
00:20:39,990 --> 00:20:45,170
And so you gradually the
moving out of many of the men,

377
00:20:45,170 --> 00:20:48,180
going back to the west.

378
00:20:48,180 --> 00:20:50,210
The Poles being
the last to leave.

379
00:20:50,210 --> 00:20:53,300
And then a new influx
of women, mostly

380
00:20:53,300 --> 00:20:56,510
Poles and Russians,
some with children,

381
00:20:56,510 --> 00:21:00,620
but mostly single persons.

382
00:21:00,620 --> 00:21:04,490
And they were waiting for the
agreement for the Russians

383
00:21:04,490 --> 00:21:05,840
to take over.

384
00:21:05,840 --> 00:21:07,580
And some were going.

385
00:21:07,580 --> 00:21:13,550
Some were debarking by train
to go back to Poland or Russia.

386
00:21:13,550 --> 00:21:18,800
And some were just staying
in the camp and so forth.

387
00:21:18,800 --> 00:21:22,040
I was tempted a couple of
times to burn the place.

388
00:21:22,040 --> 00:21:23,770
It just stank to high heaven.

389
00:21:23,770 --> 00:21:26,850

390
00:21:26,850 --> 00:21:27,750
It permeated.

391
00:21:27,750 --> 00:21:32,330
There was a smell about
these camps, these barracks,

392
00:21:32,330 --> 00:21:34,256
that permeated everything.

393

00:21:34,256 --> 00:21:37,450

394

00:21:37,450 --> 00:21:40,530

The people would--
they had no medicines,

395

00:21:40,530 --> 00:21:44,550

although there were physicians,
dentists, other health

396

00:21:44,550 --> 00:21:47,130

personnel in the
camps as prisoners.

397

00:21:47,130 --> 00:21:51,060

But there was nothing for
them to heal anybody with.

398

00:21:51,060 --> 00:21:54,315

So the death rate was
high, no question about it.

399

00:21:54,315 --> 00:21:58,860

And the accommodations
were pretty miserable.

400

00:21:58,860 --> 00:22:02,970

Latrine, for example,
is a huge, huge room.

401

00:22:02,970 --> 00:22:06,600

You had a couple
of poles, and you

402

00:22:06,600 --> 00:22:10,650

sat on a pole with a
pit underneath there

403

00:22:10,650 --> 00:22:14,610

for the fecal matter,
other matters to drop off.

404

00:22:14,610 --> 00:22:18,570

And it was just pretty
primitive society.

405

00:22:18,570 --> 00:22:23,970

Cooking was done in four
or five huge kettles.

406

00:22:23,970 --> 00:22:27,120

They were like pressure cookers.

407

00:22:27,120 --> 00:22:30,960

I don't know how many gallons of
food, soup they would produce,

408

00:22:30,960 --> 00:22:34,110

but they would just throw
everything into there

409

00:22:34,110 --> 00:22:35,850

and make soup.

410

00:22:35,850 --> 00:22:38,230

And that's how they fed people.

411

00:22:38,230 --> 00:22:43,260

And I guess people must
have taken containers

412

00:22:43,260 --> 00:22:46,875

back to the barracks,
and then dishes out

413

00:22:46,875 --> 00:22:48,000

to the various individuals.

414

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:51,060

I never got into that,
because I was too busy

415

00:22:51,060 --> 00:22:55,860

getting supplies and
sort of taking charge

416
00:22:55,860 --> 00:22:58,950
of that end of the picture.

417
00:22:58,950 --> 00:23:03,390
And presumably, our other
officers were doing something.

418
00:23:03,390 --> 00:23:06,000
Although the
captain of our unit,

419
00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:16,710
he had procured one of two
Mercedes-Benz sport cars

420
00:23:16,710 --> 00:23:22,470
that were made
back in 1936 or so.

421
00:23:22,470 --> 00:23:25,300
And I rode in one
of these things.

422
00:23:25,300 --> 00:23:27,630
Ran like on the Autobahn.

423
00:23:27,630 --> 00:23:33,150
It went up to about 100 miles
an hour and rode like a--

424
00:23:33,150 --> 00:23:34,460
didn't have any springs in it.

425
00:23:34,460 --> 00:23:36,960
It's just like a truck.

426
00:23:36,960 --> 00:23:39,720
And he was he was
trying to arrange

427
00:23:39,720 --> 00:23:45,850

to have this driven to Paris
and so he would have it.

428
00:23:45,850 --> 00:23:48,120
And so I don't know what
the other officers did.

429
00:23:48,120 --> 00:23:49,710
They didn't do-- far as I--

430
00:23:49,710 --> 00:23:51,420
the one that became
mentally disturbed,

431
00:23:51,420 --> 00:23:53,830
he came back for a short
time and couldn't make it.

432
00:23:53,830 --> 00:23:57,930
And he eventually was
sent back to the States.

433
00:23:57,930 --> 00:24:00,840
Meantime, the Red Cross,
JDC were doing their job.

434
00:24:00,840 --> 00:24:02,740
And I never saw them again.

435
00:24:02,740 --> 00:24:06,720
And this is how things
were at the time.

436
00:24:06,720 --> 00:24:09,960

437
00:24:09,960 --> 00:24:15,540
All the officers had to be
got a medical examination to--

438
00:24:15,540 --> 00:24:19,830
this was after the war was
over, the German war was over.

439
00:24:19,830 --> 00:24:22,860
We were all got a
medical examination

440
00:24:22,860 --> 00:24:26,580
to see where we fit for
the reassignment to Japan,

441
00:24:26,580 --> 00:24:27,750
Japanese, eastern.

442
00:24:27,750 --> 00:24:30,360

443
00:24:30,360 --> 00:24:34,230
At that time, because of the
pressure of work I was doing,

444
00:24:34,230 --> 00:24:38,250
I had developed high
blood pressure, which

445
00:24:38,250 --> 00:24:41,090
is perfectly understandable.

446
00:24:41,090 --> 00:24:45,480
And I know how it affected
whether I had gone overseas

447
00:24:45,480 --> 00:24:46,890
or not.

448
00:24:46,890 --> 00:24:49,590
But things had
settled down a little.

449
00:24:49,590 --> 00:24:54,120
We got to about June, I
wasn't running every day

450
00:24:54,120 --> 00:24:57,850

to look for food.

451
00:24:57,850 --> 00:25:05,470
And finally, about some time
in the beginning of June,

452
00:25:05,470 --> 00:25:07,790
we just couldn't
find any more food.

453
00:25:07,790 --> 00:25:10,870
We'd cleaned out everything.

454
00:25:10,870 --> 00:25:18,900
And so I went to the first army
headquarters, which was outside

455
00:25:18,900 --> 00:25:26,460
of Weimar, and called on the
colonel in charge of supply

456
00:25:26,460 --> 00:25:30,810
and told him we had to have
food brought to the camp.

457
00:25:30,810 --> 00:25:36,800
I think at that time, we might
have had about 10,000 people,

458
00:25:36,800 --> 00:25:39,580
maybe more or less.

459
00:25:39,580 --> 00:25:46,360
And he was very he
was very unresponsive.

460
00:25:46,360 --> 00:25:48,730
Well, he said, I'll
give you a crying towel.

461
00:25:48,730 --> 00:25:50,350
I said, listen.

462

00:25:50,350 --> 00:25:53,500

I was by now a first lieutenant.

463

00:25:53,500 --> 00:25:56,350

I said, I don't care if you
send me back to the States

464

00:25:56,350 --> 00:25:56,990

in chains.

465

00:25:56,990 --> 00:25:58,720

I said, I've had enough of this.

466

00:25:58,720 --> 00:26:03,370

I've been working day and night
for months, and I've had it.

467

00:26:03,370 --> 00:26:06,940

And I said, if you don't
provide us with food,

468

00:26:06,940 --> 00:26:09,730

rations for this camp,
I'm going to open up

469

00:26:09,730 --> 00:26:12,920

the gates tell people to go
into Weimar and help themselves.

470

00:26:12,920 --> 00:26:17,590

And I said, you are going to
be responsible for whatever

471

00:26:17,590 --> 00:26:21,970

civil disorders are going to
take place as a result of this.

472

00:26:21,970 --> 00:26:23,030

And he got the message.

473

00:26:23,030 --> 00:26:24,970

We got the food.

474
00:26:24,970 --> 00:26:27,280
But you know,
there were a number

475
00:26:27,280 --> 00:26:30,400
of times in my army
career where really I

476
00:26:30,400 --> 00:26:36,190
had to take really a
hard attitude, which was

477
00:26:36,190 --> 00:26:38,080
contrary to my normal behavior.

478
00:26:38,080 --> 00:26:40,910
I'm rather a timid guy.

479
00:26:40,910 --> 00:26:46,180
But when I'm operating on
behalf of somebody else,

480
00:26:46,180 --> 00:26:50,820
I felt a great deal
of concern about it.

481
00:26:50,820 --> 00:26:59,990
And had the courage or whatever
to fight on people's behalf.

482
00:26:59,990 --> 00:27:02,080
And we heard some
terrible things.

483
00:27:02,080 --> 00:27:05,980
As soon as the Russians
and Poles were going back

484
00:27:05,980 --> 00:27:10,480
to Poland and Russia,
and particularly they

485

00:27:10,480 --> 00:27:19,300

grabbed all of the Russians,
took all the clothing and stuff

486

00:27:19,300 --> 00:27:23,620

we gave them, stripped them
and put them in uniform

487

00:27:23,620 --> 00:27:25,720

and sent them to Siberia.

488

00:27:25,720 --> 00:27:30,090

The allegation was that
they were actually,

489

00:27:30,090 --> 00:27:32,670

by contact with the
Americans, they were spoiled

490

00:27:32,670 --> 00:27:37,630

and they were no longer
reliable Russians.

491

00:27:37,630 --> 00:27:41,920

To emphasize that
point still further,

492

00:27:41,920 --> 00:27:45,730

during the time we were
in Belgium and Verviers,

493

00:27:45,730 --> 00:27:49,360

we had a lot of Russians,
Soviet people there.

494

00:27:49,360 --> 00:27:55,300

And so a Russian officer,
who had been captured

495

00:27:55,300 --> 00:27:57,130

and was a slave laborer--

496

00:27:57,130 --> 00:27:59,260
he wasn't in uniform--

497
00:27:59,260 --> 00:28:03,160
he came through
and so our captain

498
00:28:03,160 --> 00:28:05,903
made him a liaison
officer to the Russians.

499
00:28:05,903 --> 00:28:07,820
Our liaison officer to
deal with the Russians.

500
00:28:07,820 --> 00:28:09,910
Did a very nice job.

501
00:28:09,910 --> 00:28:16,240
And well, while he
was in Buchenwald,

502
00:28:16,240 --> 00:28:22,630
he was ordered back by
the Russians to Paris.

503
00:28:22,630 --> 00:28:23,620
He got to Paris.

504
00:28:23,620 --> 00:28:26,620
They raised hell with him.

505
00:28:26,620 --> 00:28:30,520
How come you're working
with the Americans?

506
00:28:30,520 --> 00:28:31,480
You're a traitor.

507
00:28:31,480 --> 00:28:32,960
You're this, you're that.

508

00:28:32,960 --> 00:28:37,220
And so, he had to save
his life literally,

509
00:28:37,220 --> 00:28:39,220
he had to confess
that he was coerced

510
00:28:39,220 --> 00:28:46,620
to working with the Americans,
and that he repents this

511
00:28:46,620 --> 00:28:48,340
and so forth.

512
00:28:48,340 --> 00:28:51,970
And so then they allowed him to
regain his rank as a captain,

513
00:28:51,970 --> 00:28:54,800
and he came back in
full military uniform

514
00:28:54,800 --> 00:28:59,960
with this decorations,
his epaulets.

515
00:28:59,960 --> 00:29:02,520
And then he begged us to do
anything possible to take him

516
00:29:02,520 --> 00:29:05,770
back to the United States.

517
00:29:05,770 --> 00:29:08,050
But this is the attitude.

518
00:29:08,050 --> 00:29:12,770
Another time when
we were in Verviers,

519
00:29:12,770 --> 00:29:16,840
one of the Russian

prisoners, displaced persons,

520
00:29:16,840 --> 00:29:21,160
got out of camp and
robbed a Belgian couple.

521
00:29:21,160 --> 00:29:24,840
Shot them, killed them.

522
00:29:24,840 --> 00:29:27,390
And so the Belgian
authorities got a hold him.

523
00:29:27,390 --> 00:29:31,000
We threw him into
the local bastille.

524
00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:33,090
And it really was a bastille.

525
00:29:33,090 --> 00:29:36,110
I visited to see whether
he was all right.

526
00:29:36,110 --> 00:29:41,430
And you went into these
huge, steel doors,

527
00:29:41,430 --> 00:29:45,070
which clanked as they shut,
with thick walls and so forth.

528
00:29:45,070 --> 00:29:47,370
It was a real jail.

529
00:29:47,370 --> 00:29:50,250
Well then the Russian
liaison officers came,

530
00:29:50,250 --> 00:29:52,980
and they were very
concerned with us.

531
00:29:52,980 --> 00:29:58,500
Why weren't we
distributing cigarettes

532
00:29:58,500 --> 00:30:00,780
to the Russian nationals?

533
00:30:00,780 --> 00:30:02,420
The Polish nationals
were getting it.

534
00:30:02,420 --> 00:30:04,230
The Belgian nationals
were getting it.

535
00:30:04,230 --> 00:30:05,970
These persons were getting it.

536
00:30:05,970 --> 00:30:09,990
I said well, the British army
is providing these people

537
00:30:09,990 --> 00:30:15,450
with cigarettes, and I said, all
we do is distribute it to them.

538
00:30:15,450 --> 00:30:18,000
And I said, the rest
of us, the Americans,

539
00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:20,010
we buy our cigarettes.

540
00:30:20,010 --> 00:30:23,820
And I said, if you will
provide cigarettes,

541
00:30:23,820 --> 00:30:26,740
I'll see that the
Russian nationals get it.

542
00:30:26,740 --> 00:30:28,470

And that was his concern.

543

00:30:28,470 --> 00:30:32,460
So I asked him, what do we do
about this criminal, Russian

544

00:30:32,460 --> 00:30:33,900
criminal, who--

545

00:30:33,900 --> 00:30:36,930
Oh, he said, we have a
lot of crime in Russia,

546

00:30:36,930 --> 00:30:39,990
and we deal very
harshly with them.

547

00:30:39,990 --> 00:30:42,990
And he said, you
should shoot him.

548

00:30:42,990 --> 00:30:45,960
Well obviously, I
wasn't about to shoot

549

00:30:45,960 --> 00:30:48,660
any Russians or anybody else.

550

00:30:48,660 --> 00:30:51,610
And so I guess the poor guy
is still, if he's still alive,

551

00:30:51,610 --> 00:30:56,730
he's still in the local lockup.

552

00:30:56,730 --> 00:30:57,780
That was their attitude.

553

00:30:57,780 --> 00:31:01,410
They were more concerned with
the distribution of cigarettes

554

00:31:01,410 --> 00:31:06,150
to their nationals than
with their welfare really.

555
00:31:06,150 --> 00:31:12,040
And so that's a little
side issue about them.

556
00:31:12,040 --> 00:31:21,960
And it's amazing how much
underground knowledge you got.

557
00:31:21,960 --> 00:31:24,460
Almost shortly after these
fellows were on a train,

558
00:31:24,460 --> 00:31:25,470
stripped--

559
00:31:25,470 --> 00:31:33,720
[NO AUDIO]

560
00:31:33,720 --> 00:31:38,520
This is the USHMM oral history
interview with Milton Sure.

561
00:31:38,520 --> 00:31:45,650
This is tape two, side B.

562
00:31:45,650 --> 00:31:48,320
You were talking
about toward the end

563
00:31:48,320 --> 00:31:49,770
of your time at Buchenwald.

564
00:31:49,770 --> 00:31:51,530
Yeah, end of the
time at Buchenwald.

565
00:31:51,530 --> 00:31:53,660
It was interesting.

566

00:31:53,660 --> 00:32:02,800

I had a chance to go to Jena,
which was less than 10 miles

567

00:32:02,800 --> 00:32:08,950

away and where the great
Zeiss Works was located

568

00:32:08,950 --> 00:32:18,290

and also where the so-called
Schott Glass Works.

569

00:32:18,290 --> 00:32:21,750

One of the things about the
optical instruments and cameras

570

00:32:21,750 --> 00:32:24,150

that the Zeiss people
made, could never

571

00:32:24,150 --> 00:32:25,590

have been possible
if they didn't

572

00:32:25,590 --> 00:32:29,970

have the superlative glass
that was produced by the Schott

573

00:32:29,970 --> 00:32:30,900

Works.

574

00:32:30,900 --> 00:32:41,970

It was interesting that Jena as
a city was almost obliterated.

575

00:32:41,970 --> 00:32:45,750

The workers' housing was
literally blown apart.

576

00:32:45,750 --> 00:32:50,490

And that the Zeiss Works
were almost intact.

577

00:32:50,490 --> 00:32:55,410

Now whether they had a wonderful
camouflage that protected them

578

00:32:55,410 --> 00:32:58,150

or whether there was a
gentleman's agreement not

579

00:32:58,150 --> 00:33:01,600

to bomb it, I'll never know.

580

00:33:01,600 --> 00:33:03,390

But it was untouched.

581

00:33:03,390 --> 00:33:09,840

I did have a chance, I
visited a couple of scientists

582

00:33:09,840 --> 00:33:10,840

that they had.

583

00:33:10,840 --> 00:33:16,620

In the original house
of one of the founders,

584

00:33:16,620 --> 00:33:21,510

they set up a research
laboratory by two scientists.

585

00:33:21,510 --> 00:33:22,620

One was a physician.

586

00:33:22,620 --> 00:33:25,000

One was a PhD.

587

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:28,860

And I was interested
what they were doing.

588

00:33:28,860 --> 00:33:36,150

One of the men was working
with a lot of different fungus

589
00:33:36,150 --> 00:33:37,920
colonies, and he was
trying to develop

590
00:33:37,920 --> 00:33:44,970
the equivalent of
streptomycin and other things.

591
00:33:44,970 --> 00:33:48,840
The other fellow was working
on the effect of trace elements

592
00:33:48,840 --> 00:33:50,248
on the body.

593
00:33:50,248 --> 00:33:51,540
And that was quite [INAUDIBLE].

594
00:33:51,540 --> 00:33:53,910
And both of them had some
papers published in English

595
00:33:53,910 --> 00:33:55,375
which they gave me.

596
00:33:55,375 --> 00:33:57,810
And they were very
concerned about wanting

597
00:33:57,810 --> 00:34:03,790
to leave there to go to the
Kaiser Wilhelm Institute,

598
00:34:03,790 --> 00:34:07,320
trying to get out with their
families and their instruments

599
00:34:07,320 --> 00:34:12,540
and some of their
cultures, other things.

600

00:34:12,540 --> 00:34:14,530
And the only thing
I suggested to them,

601
00:34:14,530 --> 00:34:18,840
was that I said, I couldn't do
that as a member of the army.

602
00:34:18,840 --> 00:34:22,139
But I said, I would
suggest that you

603
00:34:22,139 --> 00:34:24,100
try to get in touch with
the Red Cross people.

604
00:34:24,100 --> 00:34:26,699
Maybe they would provide
you with a couple of trucks

605
00:34:26,699 --> 00:34:28,860
to move their equipment out.

606
00:34:28,860 --> 00:34:31,710

607
00:34:31,710 --> 00:34:37,885
They gave me-- they
didn't have any cameras,

608
00:34:37,885 --> 00:34:40,989
so they gave me a microscope.

609
00:34:40,989 --> 00:34:45,880
And there was a microscope
that had a phase contrast

610
00:34:45,880 --> 00:34:50,020
device on it, so they could do
black field and illuminations,

611
00:34:50,020 --> 00:34:50,730
things like that.

612
00:34:50,730 --> 00:34:54,909
It was very advanced, much
more than American microscopes.

613
00:34:54,909 --> 00:34:59,110
And I had a good friend,
a Belgian pediatrician.

614
00:34:59,110 --> 00:35:04,510
And so when our Belgian liaison
officer went back to Belgium,

615
00:35:04,510 --> 00:35:11,530
I gave him the microscope
to pass on to my friend.

616
00:35:11,530 --> 00:35:19,180
The thing that was very, very
hard to see was in the days

617
00:35:19,180 --> 00:35:22,510
before, two or three
days before the Russians

618
00:35:22,510 --> 00:35:27,490
were going to take over
that part of Thuringia--

619
00:35:27,490 --> 00:35:30,520
including Weimar,
Buchenwald-- you'd

620
00:35:30,520 --> 00:35:36,670
see people lined up on the
road with buggies, carts,

621
00:35:36,670 --> 00:35:40,180
one-horse vehicles,
and so on, loaded

622
00:35:40,180 --> 00:35:43,510
with their few

possessions, marching

623
00:35:43,510 --> 00:35:44,730
on the side of the road.

624
00:35:44,730 --> 00:35:49,870
It was reminiscent
of some of the movies

625
00:35:49,870 --> 00:35:54,010
we saw of the movement
of populations

626
00:35:54,010 --> 00:35:58,390
during the invasion of France
and Poland during the days.

627
00:35:58,390 --> 00:36:00,470
Very pathetic seeing that.

628
00:36:00,470 --> 00:36:02,890
But this is how people
felt about the Russians.

629
00:36:02,890 --> 00:36:07,938
And obviously, I think their
fears were well-founded.

630
00:36:07,938 --> 00:36:10,870

631
00:36:10,870 --> 00:36:13,900
Well, what else can we say?

632
00:36:13,900 --> 00:36:17,890
Can you describe
leaving Buchenwald?

633
00:36:17,890 --> 00:36:21,724
Well, the one thing I wanted
to mention is that Buchenwald--

634

00:36:21,724 --> 00:36:24,450

635

00:36:24,450 --> 00:36:26,600
and I don't know about
other concentration camps,

636

00:36:26,600 --> 00:36:29,210
because I had never visited
any other but Buchenwald.

637

00:36:29,210 --> 00:36:31,010
Didn't have time to.

638

00:36:31,010 --> 00:36:34,940
But it had a number of
little industries there.

639

00:36:34,940 --> 00:36:37,580
They assembled pistols.

640

00:36:37,580 --> 00:36:42,050
They assembled binoculars.

641

00:36:42,050 --> 00:36:46,760
They had some other small
parts, different things

642

00:36:46,760 --> 00:36:48,410
they were doing.

643

00:36:48,410 --> 00:36:50,690
And of course they
were mining onyx.

644

00:36:50,690 --> 00:36:55,040
They were making
these tremendous desk

645

00:36:55,040 --> 00:36:56,180
sets out of onyx.

646

00:36:56,180 --> 00:36:57,650
They were really beautiful.

647
00:36:57,650 --> 00:37:01,130
Obviously they went to
the Nazis and so on.

648
00:37:01,130 --> 00:37:06,290

649
00:37:06,290 --> 00:37:07,790
While we were looking
for equipment,

650
00:37:07,790 --> 00:37:13,460
I recall we ran into a huge barn
a good ways from Buchenwald.

651
00:37:13,460 --> 00:37:15,830
We were looking
for objects there.

652
00:37:15,830 --> 00:37:17,810
We found pistols.

653
00:37:17,810 --> 00:37:20,120
We found rifles.

654
00:37:20,120 --> 00:37:23,050
They found some clothing
and things that we--

655
00:37:23,050 --> 00:37:24,820
and apparently
this barn was used

656
00:37:24,820 --> 00:37:27,760
to as a little sub-warehouse.

657
00:37:27,760 --> 00:37:31,760
They used to assemble military
equipment in outlying areas,

658

00:37:31,760 --> 00:37:33,950

because of the bombing
that took place.

659

00:37:33,950 --> 00:37:36,860

This was going on
all over Germany.

660

00:37:36,860 --> 00:37:42,530

661

00:37:42,530 --> 00:37:44,330

The Sergeant and I
would look over things,

662

00:37:44,330 --> 00:37:48,470

and anything we saw that we
thought we could use, we took.

663

00:37:48,470 --> 00:37:52,250

And if it was from
a governmental unit,

664

00:37:52,250 --> 00:37:56,300

we gave them a requisition order
from the military government,

665

00:37:56,300 --> 00:37:58,190

signed by me.

666

00:37:58,190 --> 00:38:02,630

And that's pretty
much what we did.

667

00:38:02,630 --> 00:38:06,290

Things quieted down a
little because the new group

668

00:38:06,290 --> 00:38:07,190

was moving in.

669

00:38:07,190 --> 00:38:09,110

The army was not
providing the food,

670
00:38:09,110 --> 00:38:10,990
so we didn't have
to chase around.

671
00:38:10,990 --> 00:38:15,650
So we had a little more time
to ourselves to relax a bit.

672
00:38:15,650 --> 00:38:20,180
And meantime, our staff
sort of melted away.

673
00:38:20,180 --> 00:38:22,970
I don't know where they went.

674
00:38:22,970 --> 00:38:26,660
Our enlisted personnel, who
I said were very ingenious,

675
00:38:26,660 --> 00:38:31,220
they had acquired some olive
drab paint and stencils.

676
00:38:31,220 --> 00:38:36,080
And so, for example, they stole
these two and a half ton diesel

677
00:38:36,080 --> 00:38:37,010
trucks.

678
00:38:37,010 --> 00:38:39,550
They were sprayed
with olive drab paint,

679
00:38:39,550 --> 00:38:42,740
and they put fake
ordnance numbers on them.

680
00:38:42,740 --> 00:38:44,360
And they'd be off and running.

681
00:38:44,360 --> 00:38:47,780
And they wanted to
give me a Mercedes.

682
00:38:47,780 --> 00:38:54,020
I refused to take large
cars, because being

683
00:38:54,020 --> 00:38:56,068
a first lieutenant,
somebody would outrank me

684
00:38:56,068 --> 00:38:57,110
and take it away from me.

685
00:38:57,110 --> 00:39:01,340
So I took a small little car.

686
00:39:01,340 --> 00:39:05,270

687
00:39:05,270 --> 00:39:06,480
It was intact.

688
00:39:06,480 --> 00:39:09,050
It practically had
new tires on it.

689
00:39:09,050 --> 00:39:12,860
And it didn't have much of a
motor going down the autobahn.

690
00:39:12,860 --> 00:39:17,350
I had to go to Munich a few
times to consult with people.

691
00:39:17,350 --> 00:39:22,410
I used to have to
either go up in 2nd

692
00:39:22,410 --> 00:39:25,760

or speed it up to 50
miles an hour in order

693
00:39:25,760 --> 00:39:28,280
to get over the hill.

694
00:39:28,280 --> 00:39:31,520
But nobody around me, and I
used that as a personal car

695
00:39:31,520 --> 00:39:35,030
for the rest of the
time I was in Germany.

696
00:39:35,030 --> 00:39:46,480
And so itself we were then left.

697
00:39:46,480 --> 00:39:51,490
I had orders to report
to some outfit which

698
00:39:51,490 --> 00:39:54,690
was in a regular
military government unit.

699
00:39:54,690 --> 00:39:58,360
And I was classified as a
health and welfare officer.

700
00:39:58,360 --> 00:40:00,970
And other people went wherever.

701
00:40:00,970 --> 00:40:01,770
I don't know.

702
00:40:01,770 --> 00:40:03,560
I don't know what
happened to the captain.

703
00:40:03,560 --> 00:40:05,768
I don't know what happened
to the enlisted personnel.

704

00:40:05,768 --> 00:40:07,080

Never saw them again.

705

00:40:07,080 --> 00:40:09,480

We all had our different orders.

706

00:40:09,480 --> 00:40:13,510

But it was a very
hectic experience.

707

00:40:13,510 --> 00:40:14,640

I was a lot--

708

00:40:14,640 --> 00:40:15,550

but I've paid.

709

00:40:15,550 --> 00:40:17,260

I paid.

710

00:40:17,260 --> 00:40:22,220

My immune system is very much
compromised by the stress

711

00:40:22,220 --> 00:40:24,530

I had during this whole period.

712

00:40:24,530 --> 00:40:28,450

And I've developed arthritis.

713

00:40:28,450 --> 00:40:35,830

I had uveitis, which is a eye
condition, a retinal problem,

714

00:40:35,830 --> 00:40:40,307

based on the immune system.

715

00:40:40,307 --> 00:40:40,890

But that's it.

716

00:40:40,890 --> 00:40:44,570

Otherwise, however,

I've survived.

717
00:40:44,570 --> 00:40:48,670
So you said it was in July
that you left Buchenwald.

718
00:40:48,670 --> 00:40:51,490
Yeah, it was turned over--

719
00:40:51,490 --> 00:40:54,820
the Russian zone was
enlarged to include

720
00:40:54,820 --> 00:40:57,310
the whole province of
Thuringia, which included

721
00:40:57,310 --> 00:41:01,330
Weimar, Jena, and so on.

722
00:41:01,330 --> 00:41:04,530
And then the Americans
were deployed.

723
00:41:04,530 --> 00:41:09,730
Principally, the British
got the territory up

724
00:41:09,730 --> 00:41:10,840
around the northern part.

725
00:41:10,840 --> 00:41:14,080

726
00:41:14,080 --> 00:41:18,790
The French got the area
around Stuttgart, I believe.

727
00:41:18,790 --> 00:41:22,090
And the Americans got Bavaria.

728
00:41:22,090 --> 00:41:26,470

When you left Buchenwald,
where did you go?

729
00:41:26,470 --> 00:41:27,700
I joined the unit--

730
00:41:27,700 --> 00:41:32,410
I had orders to
join a unit which

731
00:41:32,410 --> 00:41:36,870
moved down in the
southern part of Bavaria.

732
00:41:36,870 --> 00:41:39,700

733
00:41:39,700 --> 00:41:42,240
And it was supposed to be
in charge of a town there.

734
00:41:42,240 --> 00:41:44,970

735
00:41:44,970 --> 00:41:51,950
And we were there for
probably two or three weeks,

736
00:41:51,950 --> 00:41:57,800
and then they moved us
to the center of Bavaria.

737
00:41:57,800 --> 00:42:00,950
Apparently there was a
military government team

738
00:42:00,950 --> 00:42:09,410
at the little rural
town of Kempten,

739
00:42:09,410 --> 00:42:13,250
which was probably a little
city or village of about

740
00:42:13,250 --> 00:42:15,530
5,000 people or less.

741
00:42:15,530 --> 00:42:19,310
County seat in a rural county.

742
00:42:19,310 --> 00:42:22,010
There was very little
industry there.

743
00:42:22,010 --> 00:42:26,150
I think they
manufactured silverware.

744
00:42:26,150 --> 00:42:28,040
And there was a brewery.

745
00:42:28,040 --> 00:42:30,800
And there was some other-- two
or three other kinds of things.

746
00:42:30,800 --> 00:42:34,520
Apparently some military
government unit--

747
00:42:34,520 --> 00:42:35,960
not a military government unit--

748
00:42:35,960 --> 00:42:39,710
probably a rifle company
or somebody went in there.

749
00:42:39,710 --> 00:42:42,140
These were combat
troops, went in there.

750
00:42:42,140 --> 00:42:44,460
And put in charge,
and they did nothing.

751
00:42:44,460 --> 00:42:45,230

They just drank.

752
00:42:45,230 --> 00:42:47,430
Far as we could see, they
drank up all the liquor

753
00:42:47,430 --> 00:42:50,433
and probably seduced
all the girls.

754
00:42:50,433 --> 00:42:51,350
But there was nothing.

755
00:42:51,350 --> 00:42:52,430
Schools were closed.

756
00:42:52,430 --> 00:42:53,240
Industry closed.

757
00:42:53,240 --> 00:42:54,500
Banks were closed.

758
00:42:54,500 --> 00:42:59,620
It was just-- and this
thing had languished

759
00:42:59,620 --> 00:43:02,400
for a couple of months now.

760
00:43:02,400 --> 00:43:04,640
So we removed in, and we
had to work day and night

761
00:43:04,640 --> 00:43:09,350
to get things
moving, which we did.

762
00:43:09,350 --> 00:43:12,070
Were you still doing
the same type of job

763
00:43:12,070 --> 00:43:14,360

that you had at
Buchenwald where you were

764
00:43:14,360 --> 00:43:16,220
searching for supplies?

765
00:43:16,220 --> 00:43:18,160
No, my job there--

766
00:43:18,160 --> 00:43:20,965
we didn't have supplies because
we were drawing army rations.

767
00:43:20,965 --> 00:43:23,810
We were a regular unit.

768
00:43:23,810 --> 00:43:30,020
My job was to work at getting
the schools open, hospital

769
00:43:30,020 --> 00:43:31,580
open.

770
00:43:31,580 --> 00:43:33,770
So it was health, welfare.

771
00:43:33,770 --> 00:43:36,230
It was fine arts, monuments.

772
00:43:36,230 --> 00:43:39,890
As different officers left
to go back to the States,

773
00:43:39,890 --> 00:43:41,400
I would take on another thing.

774
00:43:41,400 --> 00:43:45,490
And at one time I had
to open up the banks.

775
00:43:45,490 --> 00:43:49,760
I opened up the hospitals.

776
00:43:49,760 --> 00:43:51,470
The schools had to be--

777
00:43:51,470 --> 00:43:53,260
the personnel had
to be denazified.

778
00:43:53,260 --> 00:43:57,215
A Nazi was anybody who--

779
00:43:57,215 --> 00:43:59,830

780
00:43:59,830 --> 00:44:03,390
anybody who did anything had to
be a member of the Nazi party.

781
00:44:03,390 --> 00:44:07,370
However, if you were
a sergeant or higher,

782
00:44:07,370 --> 00:44:14,150
you were deemed to be a
Nazi, a professed Nazi.

783
00:44:14,150 --> 00:44:18,450
And so you were ineligible
to hold public office.

784
00:44:18,450 --> 00:44:24,420
So had opened up our
school, we couldn't

785
00:44:24,420 --> 00:44:28,340
find teachers who qualified.

786
00:44:28,340 --> 00:44:33,760
But it happened there were a
number of nuns, some of whom

787
00:44:33,760 --> 00:44:34,380

were teachers.

788

00:44:34,380 --> 00:44:36,150

Good many of them were teachers.

789

00:44:36,150 --> 00:44:42,480

And so we were able to hire them
and open up the school system.

790

00:44:42,480 --> 00:44:47,950

There was a young physician
in town, and for some reason

791

00:44:47,950 --> 00:44:50,440

he wasn't a Nazi.

792

00:44:50,440 --> 00:44:52,420

And so we made him
health officer,

793

00:44:52,420 --> 00:44:55,000

and he also was in charge of
opening up the little hospital

794

00:44:55,000 --> 00:44:56,092

they had there.

795

00:44:56,092 --> 00:44:58,870

796

00:44:58,870 --> 00:45:02,770

We talked to the bank
people, and we said, well

797

00:45:02,770 --> 00:45:04,530

the bank's got to open.

798

00:45:04,530 --> 00:45:09,410

799

00:45:09,410 --> 00:45:13,880

And you'd talk to the people,

and you couldn't develop

800
00:45:13,880 --> 00:45:15,060
any consensus with them.

801
00:45:15,060 --> 00:45:21,490
You could not talk to them
and come to a conclusion which

802
00:45:21,490 --> 00:45:22,730
they would participate in.

803
00:45:22,730 --> 00:45:27,020
They just weren't-- the Germans
couldn't function unless they

804
00:45:27,020 --> 00:45:28,280
had a direct order.

805
00:45:28,280 --> 00:45:32,540
And finally I had to say,
after hours of discussion, well

806
00:45:32,540 --> 00:45:35,150
next Thursday at
9:00 in the morning,

807
00:45:35,150 --> 00:45:37,040
you will open the bank.

808
00:45:37,040 --> 00:45:38,720
Javol, javol.

809
00:45:38,720 --> 00:45:40,700
They did it, did it well.

810
00:45:40,700 --> 00:45:43,250
And this was true of everything.

811
00:45:43,250 --> 00:45:52,190
Somebody, one of the officers,
got the silver factory open.

812
00:45:52,190 --> 00:45:56,012
Somebody else got the
brewery up and functioning.

813
00:45:56,012 --> 00:46:02,360

814
00:46:02,360 --> 00:46:05,120
And there were a lot of
silly things going on.

815
00:46:05,120 --> 00:46:08,990
For example, one
time I had an order

816
00:46:08,990 --> 00:46:12,350
to find out how
much the Catholic

817
00:46:12,350 --> 00:46:15,125
church was collecting in funds.

818
00:46:15,125 --> 00:46:17,700

819
00:46:17,700 --> 00:46:23,450
So I called on the
chief religious person,

820
00:46:23,450 --> 00:46:24,590
who was the most senior.

821
00:46:24,590 --> 00:46:29,890
And I told him I had this order,
and I was passing it on to him.

822
00:46:29,890 --> 00:46:33,770
And it was up to him
to comply as he wished.

823
00:46:33,770 --> 00:46:37,820

And I never heard anything
about it from anybody.

824
00:46:37,820 --> 00:46:42,260
But that's kind of silly
season stuff that went on.

825
00:46:42,260 --> 00:46:49,710
I had the responsibility for
the largest Catholic institution

826
00:46:49,710 --> 00:46:52,080
in that area.

827
00:46:52,080 --> 00:46:59,220
It was an order of nuns that
ran a 2,000-bed facility

828
00:46:59,220 --> 00:47:03,440
for retarded children,
retarded persons.

829
00:47:03,440 --> 00:47:07,292
And one time, and I used
to use as an interpreter

830
00:47:07,292 --> 00:47:09,750
when I had to go down there
and approve certain things they

831
00:47:09,750 --> 00:47:14,670
were doing, which
was no problem,

832
00:47:14,670 --> 00:47:19,320
these nuns would tell me
about what was going on,

833
00:47:19,320 --> 00:47:21,300
what had happened.

834
00:47:21,300 --> 00:47:23,490
At one time, Hitler

proposed doing away

835
00:47:23,490 --> 00:47:26,070
with all the retarded
persons, because they were not

836
00:47:26,070 --> 00:47:28,110
contributing to society.

837
00:47:28,110 --> 00:47:30,360
The public reaction
in Bavaria, which

838
00:47:30,360 --> 00:47:33,760
was Catholic, almost
100% Catholic,

839
00:47:33,760 --> 00:47:37,380
was such that they
just had to desist.

840
00:47:37,380 --> 00:47:41,610
And so, when people
say that if there

841
00:47:41,610 --> 00:47:47,490
wasn't for the general
anti-Semitism in Germany

842
00:47:47,490 --> 00:47:51,420
that they wouldn't be able
to kill Jews as they did,

843
00:47:51,420 --> 00:47:52,230
I believe it.

844
00:47:52,230 --> 00:47:55,290
Because here was an
example of people trying

845
00:47:55,290 --> 00:47:59,580
to slay retarded children,
and the public opinion

846
00:47:59,580 --> 00:48:01,370
wouldn't permit it.

847
00:48:01,370 --> 00:48:05,780
And I think this was
true, what happened.

848
00:48:05,780 --> 00:48:08,280
As another officer
left, I became in charge

849
00:48:08,280 --> 00:48:10,530
of the fine arts and monuments.

850
00:48:10,530 --> 00:48:14,340
There was a large castle,
wooden castle, nearby

851
00:48:14,340 --> 00:48:18,030
in which the art collections
of several small cities

852
00:48:18,030 --> 00:48:19,590
were up there.

853
00:48:19,590 --> 00:48:24,390
So I visited to make sure
it was well protected.

854
00:48:24,390 --> 00:48:27,210
And so there was a
elderly gentleman

855
00:48:27,210 --> 00:48:32,700
with a huge Belgian
German shepherd,

856
00:48:32,700 --> 00:48:38,760
and all the art was on the
attic's floor, piled up.

857

00:48:38,760 --> 00:48:46,890
And he brought several
around, and I had a camera.

858
00:48:46,890 --> 00:48:49,950
And I took pictures of
these different things.

859
00:48:49,950 --> 00:48:53,400
It wasn't a great
collection, but there

860
00:48:53,400 --> 00:48:54,670
were some interesting pieces.

861
00:48:54,670 --> 00:48:57,510
A lot of Rubens, a lot
of the German school,

862
00:48:57,510 --> 00:48:59,280
Belgian school materials.

863
00:48:59,280 --> 00:49:00,390
It wasn't looted material.

864
00:49:00,390 --> 00:49:04,320
These were really collections
of some of the smaller

865
00:49:04,320 --> 00:49:08,870
cities in that general area.

866
00:49:08,870 --> 00:49:09,880
Well that's it.

867
00:49:09,880 --> 00:49:19,770
Finally, I moved from that
little team into Munich,

868
00:49:19,770 --> 00:49:21,090
and I was placed in charge.

869

00:49:21,090 --> 00:49:23,670

And this is when I was
on the way to go home.

870

00:49:23,670 --> 00:49:28,020

I had had five
battle stars, which

871

00:49:28,020 --> 00:49:32,310

gave me some points so I was
able to qualify for returning

872

00:49:32,310 --> 00:49:33,660

back to the States.

873

00:49:33,660 --> 00:49:42,730

And so I was sent to
join a field artillery

874

00:49:42,730 --> 00:49:45,690

battalion that was going back.

875

00:49:45,690 --> 00:49:48,990

And so I went along with them.

876

00:49:48,990 --> 00:49:51,660

Went back again through
England on an aircraft carrier

877

00:49:51,660 --> 00:49:53,015

to the United States.

878

00:49:53,015 --> 00:49:59,835

879

00:49:59,835 --> 00:50:01,210

When I came back
from Buchenwald,

880

00:50:01,210 --> 00:50:04,220

I ran into a good
friend of mine who

881
00:50:04,220 --> 00:50:13,420
had been in the Civil
Affairs unit of Brussels.

882
00:50:13,420 --> 00:50:15,180
And I had visited
him a couple of times

883
00:50:15,180 --> 00:50:18,890
when I had business, like I was
bringing in various displaced

884
00:50:18,890 --> 00:50:22,440
persons camp to Russians.

885
00:50:22,440 --> 00:50:27,470
We had to bring Russians to
rejoin their Russian unit.

886
00:50:27,470 --> 00:50:31,820
There were two young Jewish
boys that these sisters

887
00:50:31,820 --> 00:50:35,810
in the convent had
taken over, kept them

888
00:50:35,810 --> 00:50:41,900
during the duration of the war,
and they passed as Catholics.

889
00:50:41,900 --> 00:50:47,950
And the mother superior
one day called me and said,

890
00:50:47,950 --> 00:50:50,720
I have these two boys
who really should go back

891
00:50:50,720 --> 00:50:52,340
to their parents.

892

00:50:52,340 --> 00:50:55,040

And she gave me their
address, and so when

893

00:50:55,040 --> 00:50:57,500

I had business to
go into Brussels,

894

00:50:57,500 --> 00:51:00,680

I drove these two young
lads and went to the door

895

00:51:00,680 --> 00:51:02,780

and took them in.

896

00:51:02,780 --> 00:51:04,910

They took them in,
as you can imagine.

897

00:51:04,910 --> 00:51:06,680

But there were a lot
of little examples

898

00:51:06,680 --> 00:51:08,300

of that kind of stuff going on.

899

00:51:08,300 --> 00:51:19,780

900

00:51:19,780 --> 00:51:23,980

And finally, the last few
weeks while I was in Germany,

901

00:51:23,980 --> 00:51:26,170

I was in charge of all
the displaced persons

902

00:51:26,170 --> 00:51:28,300

camps in Germany.

903

00:51:28,300 --> 00:51:30,710

I visited a good many of them.

904

00:51:30,710 --> 00:51:34,090

And this was entirely different,
because these were really

905

00:51:34,090 --> 00:51:39,250

temporary shelters for a lot
of Poles, Russians, Eastern

906

00:51:39,250 --> 00:51:43,770

Europeans, who didn't want
to go back to their country.

907

00:51:43,770 --> 00:51:47,390

These were DP camps, not at
former concentration camps?

908

00:51:47,390 --> 00:51:51,850

No, they were in barracks.

909

00:51:51,850 --> 00:51:54,470

But they were more
decent accommodations,

910

00:51:54,470 --> 00:51:56,570

but it was very crowded.

911

00:51:56,570 --> 00:52:02,030

And of course families would be
separated by blankets and ropes

912

00:52:02,030 --> 00:52:03,700

and so on.

913

00:52:03,700 --> 00:52:08,710

Privacy was at a premium there.

914

00:52:08,710 --> 00:52:14,700

But they were not happy,
but they were getting food.

915

00:52:14,700 --> 00:52:16,810

They were getting

some medical care

916
00:52:16,810 --> 00:52:19,150
and waiting for such a time.

917
00:52:19,150 --> 00:52:22,360
But the Eastern Europeans,
mostly the Poles and others

918
00:52:22,360 --> 00:52:28,600
who were going back into
Soviet-dominated governments,

919
00:52:28,600 --> 00:52:30,400
they were very unhappy
about going back.

920
00:52:30,400 --> 00:52:32,200
They didn't want to go back.

921
00:52:32,200 --> 00:52:34,450
I saw one situation
which probably

922
00:52:34,450 --> 00:52:35,740
occurred many, many times.

923
00:52:35,740 --> 00:52:39,100

924
00:52:39,100 --> 00:52:44,500
I was called by somebody,
one of the displaced persons,

925
00:52:44,500 --> 00:52:47,770
called me and said, why
don't you go to so-and-so.

926
00:52:47,770 --> 00:52:54,220
So I drove up, and here was
a farmer, a German farmer,

927

00:52:54,220 --> 00:52:57,910
who was being placed in a truck
with all of his belongings,

928
00:52:57,910 --> 00:53:00,733
and they were kicking
him out of his farm.

929
00:53:00,733 --> 00:53:01,900
The neighbors were doing it.

930
00:53:01,900 --> 00:53:04,060
They wanted to
take over his farm.

931
00:53:04,060 --> 00:53:08,500
This man and his family had
been in Germany some 300 years.

932
00:53:08,500 --> 00:53:13,120
They had originally been
some Ukrainians or some sort

933
00:53:13,120 --> 00:53:16,120
of Russian group
that had emigrated

934
00:53:16,120 --> 00:53:18,920
to Germany to work in Bavaria.

935
00:53:18,920 --> 00:53:21,600
And there was a lot of it that
went the other way, Germans

936
00:53:21,600 --> 00:53:23,320
that went to Russia.

937
00:53:23,320 --> 00:53:30,640
And the neighbors, just
because of his Russian origins,

938
00:53:30,640 --> 00:53:32,980
many centuries earlier,

had taken the excuse

939

00:53:32,980 --> 00:53:35,020
to throw him out of the country.

940

00:53:35,020 --> 00:53:39,440
And of course I stopped that,
but what happened after I left?

941

00:53:39,440 --> 00:53:42,610
We were told to officiate
at some of the elections.

942

00:53:42,610 --> 00:53:45,100
Different officers
went out to officiate

943

00:53:45,100 --> 00:53:48,260
at some of the elections
in the land areas.

944

00:53:48,260 --> 00:53:50,760
So here was a little
community, and

945

00:53:50,760 --> 00:53:54,760
a little local burgermeister
of this village

946

00:53:54,760 --> 00:53:57,700
went up to the
wall, school board.

947

00:53:57,700 --> 00:54:01,120
It was at the schoolhouse,
and he wrote down five names.

948

00:54:01,120 --> 00:54:02,750
Those were the nominations.

949

00:54:02,750 --> 00:54:04,450
They didn't come
from the public.

950
00:54:04,450 --> 00:54:06,168
That was his nominations.

951
00:54:06,168 --> 00:54:07,960
And the people were
supposed to vote on it.

952
00:54:07,960 --> 00:54:10,750

953
00:54:10,750 --> 00:54:13,880
There was a complete lack
of the democratic process.

954
00:54:13,880 --> 00:54:18,790
It had been ground out of the
people during this Nazi regime.

955
00:54:18,790 --> 00:54:22,840
And I always felt I had a
responsibility as an American

956
00:54:22,840 --> 00:54:27,180
to demonstrate our
belief in democracy.

957
00:54:27,180 --> 00:54:28,930
In the main, I've
been pleased with what

958
00:54:28,930 --> 00:54:33,540
Germany has done over the
years, in terms from that.

959
00:54:33,540 --> 00:54:37,930
But they had been
completely unabled.

960
00:54:37,930 --> 00:54:42,670
Not only that, but some
of our orders were stupid.

961

00:54:42,670 --> 00:54:46,420

For example, we were
told that we couldn't

962

00:54:46,420 --> 00:54:50,210

hold any conversations
with the politicians who

963

00:54:50,210 --> 00:54:52,900

were social democrats.

964

00:54:52,900 --> 00:54:56,530

The social democrats in Germany
were no different from the New

965

00:54:56,530 --> 00:55:00,010

Deal or Democrats in America.

966

00:55:00,010 --> 00:55:03,970

But this was the
kind of stupid--

967

00:55:03,970 --> 00:55:06,460

just like finding out
how much the Catholic

968

00:55:06,460 --> 00:55:08,380

hierarchy was raking in.

969

00:55:08,380 --> 00:55:11,890

970

00:55:11,890 --> 00:55:16,660

Just stupid ideas that people
had, who were uninformed

971

00:55:16,660 --> 00:55:18,710

and so on.

972

00:55:18,710 --> 00:55:20,650

But in the main, I
think things worked out.

973
00:55:20,650 --> 00:55:23,690

974
00:55:23,690 --> 00:55:27,140
How many months were
you away from home?

975
00:55:27,140 --> 00:55:31,170

976
00:55:31,170 --> 00:55:39,550
I was overseas just
about two years.

977
00:55:39,550 --> 00:55:41,640
During that time, you
wrote to your wife?

978
00:55:41,640 --> 00:55:43,490
Oh yeah.

979
00:55:43,490 --> 00:55:44,070
Sure.

980
00:55:44,070 --> 00:55:45,690
What were you
writing to her about?

981
00:55:45,690 --> 00:55:47,400
What were you telling her?

982
00:55:47,400 --> 00:55:51,690
Mostly what I was doing,
except I never got

983
00:55:51,690 --> 00:55:56,520
into any military discussions.

984
00:55:56,520 --> 00:56:00,930
But generally, what I was doing,
if I was visiting any place

985
00:56:00,930 --> 00:56:03,260
or seeing anything
interesting and so forth.

986
00:56:03,260 --> 00:56:07,632
I frequently sent her pictures
or postcards from places,

987
00:56:07,632 --> 00:56:09,090
particularly when
I was in England.

988
00:56:09,090 --> 00:56:11,790

989
00:56:11,790 --> 00:56:14,910
But that was pretty much--

990
00:56:14,910 --> 00:56:17,670
I corresponded, made use
of the-- what is it--

991
00:56:17,670 --> 00:56:19,920
VE mail or whatever
it was called.

992
00:56:19,920 --> 00:56:20,520
V mail.

993
00:56:20,520 --> 00:56:24,030

994
00:56:24,030 --> 00:56:28,650
When I was in
England and France,

995
00:56:28,650 --> 00:56:33,240
I would frequently buy some
China or silver or something

996
00:56:33,240 --> 00:56:34,170

and send it back.

997

00:56:34,170 --> 00:56:38,220

998

00:56:38,220 --> 00:56:40,300

All of which arrived.

999

00:56:40,300 --> 00:56:42,110

And her mail arrived to you?

1000

00:56:42,110 --> 00:56:43,020

Oh yeah.

1001

00:56:43,020 --> 00:56:43,730

Sure.

1002

00:56:43,730 --> 00:56:51,630

Well, frequently you'd get
three or four letters at a time.

1003

00:56:51,630 --> 00:56:55,010

That happened, but no generally,
the post office service

1004

00:56:55,010 --> 00:56:56,590

was very good.

1005

00:56:56,590 --> 00:56:58,790

Very good.

1006

00:56:58,790 --> 00:57:02,780

So when did you arrive
back in America?

1007

00:57:02,780 --> 00:57:09,950

Well I arrived back
in America in 1946.

1008

00:57:09,950 --> 00:57:15,860

And her parents lived in
New York City, in Manhattan.

1009
00:57:15,860 --> 00:57:20,690
And apparently, somebody, some
Red Cross staffer or somebody,

1010
00:57:20,690 --> 00:57:25,820
called my wife and told her
that she saw me at the boat.

1011
00:57:25,820 --> 00:57:31,910
And they must have gotten her
address and telephone from me.

1012
00:57:31,910 --> 00:57:33,190
And they said, he looks fine.

1013
00:57:33,190 --> 00:57:34,920
He's just fat, that's all.

1014
00:57:34,920 --> 00:57:37,160
And he'll be coming home soon.

1015
00:57:37,160 --> 00:57:45,180
Well they demobilized us,
and we wound up in New Jersey

1016
00:57:45,180 --> 00:57:47,250
at Fort Dix.

1017
00:57:47,250 --> 00:57:54,690
And took us a few days to
get examined and so forth.

1018
00:57:54,690 --> 00:57:57,000
So that's where we were.

1019
00:57:57,000 --> 00:58:02,640
While I was speaking about
Brussels, this friend of mine

1020
00:58:02,640 --> 00:58:06,780
who was another lieutenant who

went through the same thing

1021
00:58:06,780 --> 00:58:09,060
with me, I saw
him at Fort Custer

1022
00:58:09,060 --> 00:58:10,640
and his wife was with him.

1023
00:58:10,640 --> 00:58:12,670
And so the girls
became very friendly.

1024
00:58:12,670 --> 00:58:22,920
And he got a job at SHAEF,
in the military government

1025
00:58:22,920 --> 00:58:31,820
headquarters in Kensington, up
around that Albert Hall area.

1026
00:58:31,820 --> 00:58:34,330
That's where he was.

1027
00:58:34,330 --> 00:58:35,590
I called him a few times.

1028
00:58:35,590 --> 00:58:39,110
I visited him a few times
when I visited London.

1029
00:58:39,110 --> 00:58:44,440
And he was telling me about the
buzz bombs landing in London.

1030
00:58:44,440 --> 00:58:51,370
And well he got in
touch with me when

1031
00:58:51,370 --> 00:58:57,925
I arrived back in New York, and
I was staying with my in-laws.

1032
00:58:57,925 --> 00:59:07,990

1033
00:59:07,990 --> 00:59:12,040
Oh, and he worked in the
Brussels military government

1034
00:59:12,040 --> 00:59:15,220
unit, the civil affairs
unit in Brussels

1035
00:59:15,220 --> 00:59:18,880
with Edward M.M.
Warburg, who came

1036
00:59:18,880 --> 00:59:20,920
from this illustrious family.

1037
00:59:20,920 --> 00:59:25,090
His father had been a
great head of fundraising

1038
00:59:25,090 --> 00:59:29,300
for Jewish causes, and
so was Edward Warburg.

1039
00:59:29,300 --> 00:59:31,530
It was a banking family.

1040
00:59:31,530 --> 00:59:38,920
And one time, Mr.
Warburg asked me

1041
00:59:38,920 --> 00:59:43,090
if I wanted to go
back to Europe.

1042
00:59:43,090 --> 00:59:45,560
And I said no.

1043
00:59:45,560 --> 00:59:47,770
I said I hadn't seen my

wife for a couple of years,

1044
00:59:47,770 --> 00:59:50,680
and I wasn't about to do that.

1045
00:59:50,680 --> 00:59:54,030
But they wanted somebody
to join the Jewish group to

1046
00:59:54,030 --> 00:59:54,720
[INAUDIBLE].

1047
00:59:54,720 --> 00:59:57,790
And I would have been a good
candidate, except I'd had

1048
00:59:57,790 --> 01:00:01,180
two years of strenuous work.

1049
01:00:01,180 --> 01:00:07,270
And meantime, among the
stuff I brought back

1050
01:00:07,270 --> 01:00:10,960
was a six foot whip.

1051
01:00:10,960 --> 01:00:14,680

1052
01:00:14,680 --> 01:00:17,830
At the handle end, it was about
an inch square, practically

1053
01:00:17,830 --> 01:00:21,890
an inch square, and tapered
down to a fine point.

1054
01:00:21,890 --> 01:00:26,640
And so he wanted to
borrow it, so-called

1055
01:00:26,640 --> 01:00:28,930

borrow it, and give
it to Edward Warburg.

1056
01:00:28,930 --> 01:00:32,730
So that when they made their
appeals for fundraising,

1057
01:00:32,730 --> 01:00:35,560
he could demonstrate
the problems of people

1058
01:00:35,560 --> 01:00:37,000
in concentration camps.

1059
01:00:37,000 --> 01:00:40,240
So that was one item
that really got away.

1060
01:00:40,240 --> 01:00:43,560
I've told people that
they ought to look around

1061
01:00:43,560 --> 01:00:45,880
in New York and some
of the museums for it,

1062
01:00:45,880 --> 01:00:48,940
because it belonged to--

1063
01:00:48,940 --> 01:00:53,470
so whether anybody does
anything about it, I don't know.

1064
01:00:53,470 --> 01:00:56,890
Then in the meantime,
in order to find a job,

1065
01:00:56,890 --> 01:00:58,570
I could have gone
back to Oklahoma City.

1066
01:00:58,570 --> 01:01:00,070
They were willing

to offer me a job,

1067

01:01:00,070 --> 01:01:03,610
and I couldn't see kicking
somebody else out of a job.

1068

01:01:03,610 --> 01:01:08,650
And so in the meantime,
I got a temporary job

1069

01:01:08,650 --> 01:01:14,860
working for the United Jewish
Appeal, and three of us

1070

01:01:14,860 --> 01:01:17,890
were loaned--

1071

01:01:17,890 --> 01:01:21,130
two young men were
loaned to Detroit

1072

01:01:21,130 --> 01:01:22,960
to help out their campaign.

1073

01:01:22,960 --> 01:01:29,920
So I got reintegrated in working
in fundraising for the United

1074

01:01:29,920 --> 01:01:31,330
Jewish Appeal in Detroit.

1075

01:01:31,330 --> 01:01:34,310
We were there for a
little over a month or so.

1076

01:01:34,310 --> 01:01:36,610
In the meantime,
I decided I wanted

1077

01:01:36,610 --> 01:01:41,950
to go back into a
non-sectarian field,

1078

01:01:41,950 --> 01:01:43,990
because there wasn't
anything opening up

1079

01:01:43,990 --> 01:01:48,460
in the Jewish field
that appealed to me.

1080

01:01:48,460 --> 01:01:54,160
And so I took a job
in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

1081

01:01:54,160 --> 01:01:57,680
It was a job half time
with the health department,

1082

01:01:57,680 --> 01:02:00,450
and half time with the
council social agencies.

1083

01:02:00,450 --> 01:02:03,440
And I was to be in
health planning.

1084

01:02:03,440 --> 01:02:08,120
I spent about six or
seven months there,

1085

01:02:08,120 --> 01:02:10,580
and the director of
that agency and I just

1086

01:02:10,580 --> 01:02:12,670
didn't see eye to eye.

1087

01:02:12,670 --> 01:02:15,770
And I was trying to do a
community planning job,

1088

01:02:15,770 --> 01:02:23,510
and he only was interested in my
working a very narrow corners.

1089

01:02:23,510 --> 01:02:30,270

And finally I told
him, just I said,

1090

01:02:30,270 --> 01:02:32,540

I just can't continue
here, and I'm

1091

01:02:32,540 --> 01:02:35,880

going to start looking
for another job.

1092

01:02:35,880 --> 01:02:40,890

So meantime, I saw a notice
in the American Journal

1093

01:02:40,890 --> 01:02:43,070

of Public Health
that some large city

1094

01:02:43,070 --> 01:02:46,970

was looking for an assistant
in health planning.

1095

01:02:46,970 --> 01:02:50,000

And so I responded.

1096

01:02:50,000 --> 01:02:54,260

I was given an interview and
learned it was in Chicago.

1097

01:02:54,260 --> 01:02:57,980

And I was interviewed
and offered the job.

1098

01:02:57,980 --> 01:02:59,540

And I stayed there
for five years

1099

01:02:59,540 --> 01:03:04,220

in health planning, community.

1100

01:03:04,220 --> 01:03:06,200

I would have gone back
into the Jewish field,

1101

01:03:06,200 --> 01:03:10,570

but just there weren't
any jobs at the time that

1102

01:03:10,570 --> 01:03:13,240

seemed to be worthwhile.

1103

01:03:13,240 --> 01:03:14,000