

This is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Arnold Weiss, conducted by Gail Schwartz on August 15, 1996 in Washington, DC. This is tape number two, side A. And we were talking about you being in Paris in the army.

Yeah. Well, when the Bulge hit, there had been a thread of German parachutists being-- I mean, in American uniforms being dropped behind the US lines to disrupt the communication. So a bunch of us were sent to augment the-- I guess it's the CIC detachment, the 9th Division, which was around Namur. So I spent the latter part of the Bulge patrolling the canals along the Meuse to hunt down German parachutists.

We caught a number, but not I. I just was cold, and miserable, and not very happy. But it was as cold a time as I can remember.

Anyway, the Bulge collapsed. I was transferred down to the 45th Division, which was south, preparing to go across the Rhine. And I spent the rest of the active war in Europe with that division, or part of that division.

Again, intelligence was a-- you didn't know one day whether you were going to be moved out into doing something else. And we did an awful lot of things that, in retrospect, were probably pretty stupid. Spent three or four days behind the German lines.

We had captured a truck coming through, a German quartermaster truck. So a couple of us were picked. And we went behind the lines, dropping mail, and picking up mail from agents. That was a little dicey.

But the other guy and I were both native German speakers, so nobody ever caught on. And we got back through the lines. And that was that. And then--

Was it different for you to be in Germany rather than France?

No. First of all, when you're in Alsace-Lorraine, which is the area where we were at, there's no difference between France and Germany. It's sort of half and half. But no.

Look, in Nice, under these occasions, first of all, your concern is for your own safety. You want to stay in one piece. Number two, you say to yourself, this is a hell of a lot better than sitting in a foxhole and freezing to death, whatever it is that you're doing. And thirdly, it's a question of being able to keep your feet dry, and your stomach reasonably full, and the other parts of your body reasonably in order.

You don't sleep a hell of a lot. And the days go by, unless you keep a journal, which of course you couldn't do. You don't remember all that much. It was flashing. And when you're in combat itself, you're so scared that you're really-- you push it out of your mind, as you do with most things that are not pleasant.

But it didn't last all that long. And as we went into Germany in, say, February and March-- really, March is the time I remember best. But then it hit me a lot more clearly.

You saw these huge long lines of German prisoners. We started spending a good deal of time interrogating these people. And then we began to see evidences of what we had heard about and suspected with respect to what had happened to the Jews, the Poles, Russians, to some extent the French, and so on.

You saw these long lines of people fleeing. There's this huge movement on the road, and so on. It got home to you pretty quick. And as we moved towards Nuremberg, which my division, the 45th Division took, then it began to sink into me more clearly.

And I watched the bombardment of the town. A bunch of us had gotten in from around the railway station into Nuremberg with the advance elements. And sniping fire broke out.

And I got the hell out of there and told the-- General Frederick, I guess it was, that we were not liable to be able to take the town easily, because the destruction in the city had been so that you couldn't even get a truck in there, let alone a tank. So he said, to hell with it. And he just, for about a day, a day and a half, bombarded the city with not only our division artillery, but with the corps artillery as well, just razing the old city. I mean, it was-- and again, I didn't have any particular feeling.

I did have a feeling as we went to Furth, and I looked at the orphanage, which had become a-- which was still occupied, but mainly by refugees from [? Germanus, ?] from the east. There was certainly no children left. And the little synagogue, which I mentioned, had been just a warehouse. And everything had been dumped in there. But that was a fairly-- I did have some emotional binges there.

But again, we moved on quickly. And a number of us were, again, designated to go to Dachau too, because there was a contingent of important prisoners, political prisoners held in Dachau, which we were to get out and to safeguard. There was [? Shisnisick, ?] and Leon Blum, and a couple of cardinals, and a variety of other important political figures.

Now, who was giving you these orders?

Well, they came down from-- I assume, from G-2 corps. But beyond that, I suppose from SHAPE, from SHAEF headquarters. But they just assembled a group of us from the various detachments, and just sent us out, and told us to get the hell-- try to get these people.

Had Dachau been liberated yet?

No, it had not been. We were racing down there. What had happened here is that the Germans tried to eradicate the camps. So there was an SS division moving south from the center of Germany to, I guess, get to Dachau and to obliterate it. And the 45th, by going via Nuremberg, were heading to head them off.

And so it was that maneuver of the SS division which caused headquarters, whichever one it was, to try to get there in order to safeguard these important prisoners. I think there was also the nephew of the king of England, and so on. They had a concentrated maybe 40 or 50 high-level prisoners. And they were afraid that, if they fell into the hands of the SS, they would all be killed-- not in the hands of the SS. But if they eradicated the camp, they would also eradicate these people.

And you had these names.

Yeah, we had the-- well, we didn't have all the names. But we knew there was this concentration of people. So anyway, that's what led me into Dachau in the early period of probably-- in April. Whatever the date is, I don't remember now.

And how did you get into Dachau?

Well, a couple of us jumped in by low-flying aircraft. And the others came in by Jeep.

So you jumped onto the camp grounds from an aircraft.

Yeah.

And who met you?

Well, there had been a revolt that had broken out inside the camp. So the camp itself was under the control of the prisoners. But the perimeter was still held by the SS.

And in part, at least, a lot of the guards had disappeared from inside the camp. And actually, many of them put on prisoners' uniforms in order to blend in, so to speak. And since there was no real record system, except the records kept by the prisoners themselves, it was very hard to distinguish them, and so on. But when the outside perimeter collapsed,

the SS withdrew.

When it became clear that the American army was coming-- all this was a couple of days. This was not any long period of time. And so what I remember so clearly is the master barracks, the big Nazi barracks, the permanent barracks were on a railway siding, or close to a railway siding.

And there was a train on the other side of the railway saying with all kinds of dead bodies where the prisoners simply had either starved, or were killed, or whatever it was. They never were unloaded. And it stank like hell. And it was a horrible place. It was unbelievably bad.

Anyway, when we got there and we were looking for these people, we didn't find them. They had been moved. So once the divisions broke through, we kept on going to chase after these prisoners.

How many were in your group of parachutists into Dachau?

Oh, I don't remember now. I think the whole team was about 11 people, under 12 people.

And these are all Americans.

All Americans, Yeah. I don't think we had any-- maybe we had one or two Frenchmen with us. I don't remember now.

Did you get a chance to talk to any of the prisoners in Dachau?

Oh, sure. I talked to a lot of them, mainly to find out where-- the way the camp was, it was divided. You had a Russian group. And you had a Jewish group. You had a Polish.

All the nationalities were represented there. And some were in very bad shape. It was a huge number of prisoners. I think later somebody told me around 35,000 prisoners in Dachau at the time of, quote, the "liberation," unquote.

The first real liberation came-- I think the French had a couple of detachments that came through, and then the 45th Division. And then the 32nd came in, and pretty soon all of it moving south towards Munich, and in the direction of Munich, and then further south to Bremen, to the pass.

Did you talk to any of the Jewish prisoners?

Yeah. Oh, yeah. I tried to find out who some of them were, and so on. I can't remember all too clearly now.

But they were asking us a lot more questions than we were asking them. When were the Americans coming? And when does the food-- is there any? Mainly concerned with food, and typhus, and typhoid. All of it was rampant in the camp.

Could they leave? What would happen to them? And so on. Again, I had no answers, and I don't think anybody else had it. We were there for a very specific purpose. And beyond that, we couldn't say anything, because we didn't know.

Whenever these kind of situations occur, it's so fluid. The last guy who knows anything is the guy who's in front or immediately behind the front. Those are the last guys we have learned what's going on.

At that time, did you know that your father had been taken to Dachau?

There was a card file that was kept in a hollow rafter. And my recollection is that he had been there. But the file never said what had happened.

They did not keep a file. It only said, the file-- which had been kept, I guess, until '42, because then the influx was so huge. But the prisoners themselves kept a file of who had passed through.

Did you see the file?

Yeah, I saw it. There was a card, a 3 by 5 card. It just had stuff on one assignment. I think it said on there '34, or something like that, maybe '35, but shortly after Dachau was created.

Whatever happened to that card file? Do you know?

I have no idea. I'm sure it went to some intelligence unit. And whatever happened to it, I don't know.

So you left your father's card there.

Yeah. I mean, I was a soldier. I was moving onto the next assignment. The best we could gather is he probably got away, that he'd gotten out. But--

Did you feel any affinity to the Jewish prisoners?

Not really. No. I couldn't say. There were-- don't know what you mean by affinity.

I mean, certainly we felt sorry for them. I felt-- if that is affinity, yes. If you mean by affinity a relationship, the answer is probably, no.

First of all, most of them didn't speak either German or English, to the extent that-- there were relatively few German Jews in this group. So communication wasn't all that easy. A lot of Russian Jews, Polish Jews, French Jews, Italian Jews, but very few German Jews that I recall. Certainly, many of them spoke some German. But it was--

Did you stay at Dachau at night?

Maybe two nights, or maybe three. All I remember is that, after the division got there, you could hear the cluck, cluck, cluck. They had wooden shoes, mainly. Underneath where I was staying, a window, which-- people were walking out of the camp in order to die, so they wouldn't die inside the camp. That I remember fairly clearly. Memories, you try to forget.

But the place stank. It was terribly depressing. That's putting it mildly. The rate of death there must have been 2,000 or 3,000 a day. And this is after liberation. It was very bad. I was delighted to get away from that.

And then where did you go?

Well, we ended up chasing after this group of prisoners. We finally caught up with them around south of Innsbruck.

You're talking about the well-known prisoners you were--

The German Wehrmacht had taken them over, and basically safeguarded them from the SS, as I remember. But I remember the last day of the war, in Seefeld in Austria, overlooking the [? Inn ?] River, and the Germans were blowing up the bridge over the Inn. And for sheer stupidity, I thought that took the cake.

And we had driven a herd of cows down a winding road to clear the mines. So that was the end of the war. And then the real work began. Then--

What did you do with these well-known prisoners?

Well, they were delivered to division headquarters. Then that was the end of it, as far as we were concerned.

Did you talk to any of them?

Yeah, I talked a little bit to Leon Blum, the former French premier. But we had been instructed not to-- our job was to get them out, and to get them to headquarters. And that was the end of our chore.

There was no-- they did not want them to be interrogated. That had to be done by specialists, and so on. Ours was just to get them, period.

Was he in good health?

Not particularly. He was coughing a lot. I saw him again at the Paris Peace Conference. I was there as a security officer for Secretary Burns and General Clay. He greeted me. And he remembered. But no, I really didn't talk with any of them.

And then, next, what did you do?

Well, next, we set up CIC headquarters in Munich. And I was an operations officer for what is known as Region 4 for counterintelligence. I did that for about a year and a half. A variety of different operations-- first de-Nazification, and chasing down this kind of thing, Hitler's last will and testament. But then we ran--

Well, let's talk a little bit about that before you go on.

OK.

What kind of instructions did you first get, and from whom?

Well, they put together a team from Supreme Headquarters to determine what happened to Hitler. They wanted to put to rest that he might still be alive. The fear of having an uprising in Germany was always present.

So basically, they tried to-- the powers that be and intelligence tried to determine, if he was dead, where was he buried? And this was all in the Russian zone, so there were relatively few-- access to these people. And the story had gone out that he had killed himself in the bunker. So they tried to determine who was in the bunker, and who might have survived out of that group.

And the guy whose responsibility this was Hugh Trevor-Roper, who was then a major in British intelligence in MI5. And he had been given this assignment, since the SHAEF G-2 was a Brit. And then there were a number of us who were detailed to him.

And there was a French captain by the name of [? Soto ?] who was a day officer. And then there were a bunch of Americans, like myself, mainly who were linguists who could-- so we put together a roster of who. And then we would get one. And then we would pick up more names. So you drew a picture.

And Hugh's book, *The Last Days of Hitler*, are really our interrogation reports. That's what we found out. Then we determined that one of the people in the bunker was a fellow named [? Zander, ?] a brigadier in the SS who had been on the staff of Himmler and [PERSONAL NAME]. And so he was a native of Munich.

So if he had gotten away, they assumed that he would try to get home. And so I arrested his family, and so on. And nobody had seen him.

But one mentioned that he had a mistress. And so I picked up the mistress-- just by sheer accident, got her. And she said that she had seen him since the collapse, and told us where he was. By the time we got there, he was working on a farm as a farm helper. And at the time we got there, he, having heard that his family had been arrested, had escaped.

And we basically finally hunted him down in a farmhouse near Regensburg and arrested him. He had a gun, and tried to shoot his way out, didn't make it. We took him. And during the interrogation, I went after him pretty hard and heavy.

He said, I suppose you want the documents. And I said, yes, I did. I had no idea what the hell he was talking about. So

he led us to a suitcase at a farm where he had worked, in a dry well. And we opened it up.

And low and behold, we found Hitler's last will and testament, which was both his political and private testament. And the political one was important, because Hitler named Donitz as his successor, and then named his cabinet for him. So this came in useful in the later Nuremberg trial against some of these folks. And then there was Goebbels' last will and declarations, and so on. And there, we also found Hitler's marriage certificate to Eva Braun, which was also attached to these papers.

Now, these were all original documents. These were not copies.

No, these were the original. There were three copies of the will apparently, as I remember it. And we caught the first one. And then this guy told us who the other two were who had made their way out of the bunker with other copies of the will.

And Hitler, fearing one of them would get through-- actually, all three of them. But none of them made it to Donitz. The collapse was so complete.

Now, you were talking-- you kept saying, we. How many people were in this group tracking this down?

It was Jerry [? Rosen, ?] maybe three or four of us, Hugh [? Soto. ?] In this particular thing, I think there were just four of us.

Including Hugh Trevor-Roper.

Including Hugh, yeah. I had to take Hugh's gun away from him. He was half blind. And I didn't want him to use it, because I figured he would shoot me or somebody else, rather than ever shooting a target. But in this arrest, there were just, I think, four of us, as I remember it. Anyway, it wasn't a big thing.

What did you do right after-- when you found it?

Well, we delivered the documents to-- Hugh took the documents to Frankfurt, to headquarters. They were obviously valuable documents. And I think they may be in the archives here. I don't know where they finally ended up.

But we did a whole bunch of other things, some of which I consider somewhat more important. We traced enemy assets-- what happened to the Nazi treasures, what happened to the gold of the Reichsbank. Those were a little more meaningful things than this political stuff. But--

[AUDIO OUT]

This is tape two, side B. And you were talking about tracing the assets. What information can you tell us about that?

Well, the Nazis had transferred a lot of assets into Switzerland using all kinds of techniques and means. And we ran an investigation on the Allianz reinsurance and insurance company, because some of it was transfers to Switzerland for reinsurance premiums, and so on, which was a means of transferring money out of Germany. And the party and individuals utilized all kinds of means to make these transfers. And we were trying to recover, as part of the legitimate-- to determine what happened to the assets, which Germany had.

We did find a good deal of gold and silver-- not silver as much, but gold and foreign currency-- in the caves near Burchesgarten. But the GI stole a hell of a lot of the foreign currency, some of which was totally fake, which wouldn't have done them much good. But the gold-- I don't know how much there was of it, but a substantial amount. Most of that was kept by the US Treasury, was turned over to the US Treasury. And eventually it was, of course, given back. But--

How did you get your information?

Some of it was done by-- before we ever got there, before we ever got to Germany. Refugees, interrogation, foreigners-- there were all sources of information. And these were all correlated. So moving into Germany, we had a wealth of information. This was not done on the spot.

The US Treasury had an operation in Europe, which was headed by Colonel Bernstein, who had been assistant general counsel of the US Treasury, who were the principal movers and shakers behind this kind of investigation. And I worked with them. They didn't have enough German speakers.

And so this is how I got acquainted with the US Treasury, which later led them to offer me a job when I finished law school. But that's what fascinated me about international finance. When I found out how these things worked, I became very interested in it.

After your experience at Dachau, did you have any contact with any of the displaced people?

Oh, a lot of contact with the displaced-- with the DPs. Part of it had to do with just the security measures. We had a responsibility for security. And there was a lot of unrest in the DP camps always.

And there were enough American personnel, particularly military police, and so on who had never been on the front lines, who had never participated in combat, who favored the Germans over the DPs, because they were clean. They weren't sick. They weren't troublesome. And so there was a constant attempt by the provost marshals, and so on, to impose stiff order in these DP camps. And these are people who had just come out of concentration camps and weren't amenable to that.

And then they had the additional desire of many of the Jewish DPs to get to Palestine. And by the time the war ended in April, by early fall, the Jewish brigade was organizing itself to transport, illegally, people from particularly Czechoslovakia, which was a great supplier of arms, to-- they had a tour going from Czechoslovakia transporting both guns and people, particularly trained soldiers, into Palestine. And this, the British didn't like.

And so they asked the Americans to close the borders. And a bunch of us were caught in the middle. We controlled CIC, to a large extent controlled the borders, both from Czechoslovakia into Bavaria, and from Bavaria into Austria. And we, of course, were favoring the Jewish side of this equation.

When you say "we," you mean other Jewish soldiers?

Sure. CIC had a high proportion of Jewish soldiers. And many of them were German Jews. And so--

Did you feel a special affinity to these other CIC soldiers?

Oh, sure. We were fairly close with each other. But the CIC, and the OSS as well, had a whole variety of people. It was, overall, a group that were linguists. They didn't fit into a military pattern. Many of them were scholars, a lot of professors of various languages, or sociology, or whatever have you.

And it was a fascinating group of people to be with. Kids like me-- when I was 20, 21 years old, to be thrown in with these folks was a fascinating experience, and an interesting one. And obviously, yeah, I favored what the brigade was trying to do.

And we had all kinds of Jewish people who-- and not only Jewish people, but a lot of people who favored this. While on the other hand, you had the know-nothings who wanted to stop it, because the Brits wanted it to stop. So we ran some risks.

In what way?

Well, while we were not in open disobedience of orders, we bent them in order to let this traffic go on.

Can you be a little more specific?

I don't want to be any more specific.

When you were-- I don't know how much you can talk about. But when you were being trained for intelligence work, did they give you a lot of information about the situation of the Jews in Europe at the time? Did they tell you where they--

No, the information on-- yes. There was some, obviously, information. We generally knew that the concentration camps existed, and so on. But ours was primarily military intelligence. It was more learning about the German order of battle, or about the structure of the party in considerable detail, the setup of the German civil military machinery.

Yes, certainly, we knew a lot about the Gestapo. We knew a lot about the [? SD, ?] the [INAUDIBLE]. We learned in excruciating detail the [INAUDIBLE], which was German military intelligence things. We certainly knew of the SS, and the [INAUDIBLE] SS, as well as the death head SS, which were mainly the concentration camp guards. Yeah, we had considerable detail. But--

So when you came to Dachau, of course, it was devastating to see what you saw. But did you know ahead of time what you would see?

Well, we had seen enough on the way down. Dachau wasn't the first camp that was overrun. The word came through pretty fast as to what you would find in these camps. So it didn't come as any great surprise. It was the first one that I had seen. But others had seen other camps as well.

It became pretty broadly known what you would find. And Dachau was the largest one that I remember that I think was overrun. But there were others who were also very sizable. But there were a number that were overrun before Dachau. So word had gotten around. Yes, there had been considerable--

Were you in any other camps besides Dachau?

Well, I went-- yeah, I traveled to Auschwitz to see if I could find my grandmother, who had been in Thereisenstadt, and then had been transported. But at the time I got to Auschwitz, there was nothing left of anything. That was in the Russian zone, and a couple of months before I could get up there.

But I saw it-- Treblinka. But that was the real death factory. But she had no way to-- did she survive then?

Were you involved with any specific DP camps?

Yeah, there were two or three of them around Munich. But I can't give you chapter and verse anymore. I have some pictures at home I took of some demonstrations of people carrying the Jewish flag, and all that. But why I have those pictures, I don't remember that either. I remember taking them.

And the Joint had an office in Munich. And I used to see those people from time to time, particularly Jewish holidays came around. We reconsecrated the temple in Furth. That was quite a big event. That was the first temple that went back into business. We took some money out of our pockets and fixed it up.

These are Jewish soldiers you're talking about.

Yeah. Some of us, who had-- there were other-- I wasn't the only guy from Nuremberg, Furth, who served and who knew the [? Weissenhule, ?] as it was known. But that still functions today. So yes, I didn't become a non-believer at all. There were times when I came close to it.

What was the reaction of the German citizens to you, to the American soldiers? Or if they knew you were Jewish, could



you sense anything?

Well, I tried to rub it in. It became part of the interrogation technique. If I wanted to really upset a German, I would scream at him in German and--

Saying what kind of things?

Well, that I've known you people, for how many Jewish deaths are you responsible? It depended a lot on the kind of interrogation I wanted to do. In some cases, I passed myself solely as an American interested more on a historical base saying, I'm from Wisconsin, that's why I speak German. I tailored it to whatever was necessary.

But where I had the opportunity, yes, I let them know very precisely. And in many cases, it worked very well. They got scared. All they wanted to do was to finish up the interview, to tell me anything.

But again, you had to be selective on how you used that kind of information. I became fairly skilled at interrogation and did an awful lot of it, sometimes just determining where you send people to detailed interrogation centers. We had automatic arrest lists. We had other lists of people that we were looking for, and the different categories of people.

If you catch somebody of the rank of colonel or above, you send them to X or Y. But you did a preliminary interrogation report so that the next interrogator would know what to do, and what to utilize, and what information had already been produced. You would catch people with documents, with papers, and so on. And you would look at them.

And you would ask them about-- every German soldier carried a [NON-ENGLISH], a record, his own military record. We didn't do that in the US Army. But the Germans had a different system. And so you did all kinds of detailed interrogations. You could carry them out if you had the time.

In most cases, because there were so few of us who spoke German-- and particularly, when I was commissioned, we had a very few commissioned officers who spoke German. And so you did double duty. I interrogated 18 hours a day or more. We had this flood of people suddenly that you had control over.

And you had to make decisions where to send them, how to send them, whether to pass them up. And people were just as overworked in the next center up. So you had to exercise some care.

And given the few people that could, then you started to hire Germans to do the interrogations, because they just simply weren't enough people. So you tried to find the Germans that you could trust, and so on. And you tried to supervise them, and so on.

We were running a huge intelligence operation, and in all different forms. There was a postal and telephone intercept group. Once telephones started to work again, you had historical units. You had a tremendous variety of people who had to be sorted out, people making claims.

We talked about DP camps. We had to go through the DP to see who was what. You had all kinds of Russians. The Russians were demanding back the whole Vlasov group that had gone over to the German side. You had all kinds of-- and how many Russian speakers can you find that you could trust, and so on?

So it was a time of tremendous activity. And the war was over, so everybody wanted to go home. They didn't want to stick around. And many of us, who were intelligence-- we were kept, because even though we had the Bronze Star, or whatever it was, you got points for each medal you got. That determined your return.

And particularly after the war in Asia stopped, there was a demobilization. And so we got even fewer people. And so some of us were just required to stay there. This was before, in a hell of a hurry, the intelligence turned eastward.

And this was all a tremendous effort. And I was tired. And I wanted to go home. And we had a lot of contact with DPs, a lot of trying to help some of them, trying to stop some of them from foolishness that they were committing.

Such as?

Well, a tremendous amount of black market activity. They were only interested in-- they had lived through it. And by god, they were going to try to get out of there, get as much money as they can.

There was a lot of theft. And then you had to weed out within the DP camps who were the DPs and who weren't. So it was a time of tremendous activity.

Who in the DP camps were not DPs?

Well, there were a lot of German sympathizers who had moved out as the Russians were coming in, or whoever. And they were, quote, "DPs" all right, except they were displaced because they had fought either in the German army, or they had-- there's a whole bunch of Croats, and Slovaks, and so on who had been made independent. And much of the death head SS were peopled by these people.

So you had to try to sort them out, which wasn't easy to do. I know the SS got criticized a lot that we let people go, and so on, and so forth. The reality was we caught a hell of a lot more than anybody had any right to expect, because just the huge numbers were unbelievable.

Was any of the information that you received then eventually used in the Nuremberg trials?

Yes. Yes, considerable. Much of the evidence that was gathered, particularly in terms of who was responsible for what, that was mainly done by US Army intelligence, and British intelligence, and so on. The Russians would only give it selectively.

But I can't-- the last will and testament was certainly in the record at Nuremberg, mainly where the defense said, oh, we opposed Hitler. And he says, why did he name you to be-- and so on, and so forth, this kind of thing.

Did you actually have your hands on Hitler's wills?

Oh, yeah. No. No, I had it.

In your hands.

I had it in my hands. I still have a carbon I took, and made what is laughingly called a Xerox. I have it at home. It's--

Do you remember how you felt seeing that and holding it?

Well, I guess I felt pretty good. We knew we had something. And we couldn't tell anybody. This was all highly classified material.

But yeah, we had a bit of a celebration after that. Yeah, it was fascinating to read. It's an interesting document. And we had a pretty good idea that we had something really hot here.

How did you celebrate?

Well, I'm sure wine was involved, and probably some brandy somewhere along the line. I had a very good mess. And I took the basic position that, as long as I was forced to stay, we were going to have a very comfortable existence. So we had a couple of automatic arrest categories that we kept on, because they were first-class chefs.

So we served a good table. And what with confidential funds, and so on, we were able to trade courses for wine. So we were living quite comfortably and well. And our mess was the best mess in Europe.

And moving around Germany then, was it a constant reminder of your childhood and your family?

No, I wouldn't-- no, I would say not. There were occasional reminders, particularly when I was in and around Nuremberg. But beyond that, no. No, I couldn't say that.

Then how long did you stay in Europe?

Until February 1947. I stayed on first in Munich. And then I was transferred up to Frankfurt to become an operations officer on a more theater-wide basis. By that time, the interest had wandered to the East and became anti-Soviet intelligence, mainly, and was sent to Czechoslovakia as an intelligence officer. Got kicked out of there, and went home.

Why did you get kicked out of there?

I was running a net into Hungary. And--

What do you mean, running a net into Hungary?

Intelligence net, intelligence agents placed in the various-- places we reported on the Russian-- on what was happening.

And why would you get kicked out for that?

Well, the Russians didn't like that.

Oh, I see. It was the Russians who kicked you out.

Yeah. They were just taking control in Prague at that time. And so they decided they would rather not have me. That was fine with me.

They gave me 24 hours to leave the country. You can do that in two hours in Czechoslovakia to get to Hof, to the border. But that was the end of it.

And then where did you go after that?

I went home.

Back to the United States.

Back to the United States. Back to Janesville, Wisconsin. Meanwhile, I had been reunited with my mother in London.

And my oldest sister, I guess, was serving in the British army or something like it. And she got married to an Austrian Jewish boy, who had also served in the British army. And I had brought my mother over before I came back. And she moved to Janesville with my foster mother.

How did you make all those arrangements?

Well, I saved up enough money to give her money to buy her a trip-- ticket to the United States, and sponsored her, went through all that sort of thing.

Was it very emotional seeing your mother again after all those years?

I don't think it was, particularly. First of all, I don't think we're that emotional people anyway. But we had been separated since I was a six or seven-year-old. She was emotional. But I wasn't particularly emotional. But I became good friends with my mother over the years.

But anyway, then I worked for a year in Janesville paying off my foster parents. They paid for part of my mother's trip. And I worked at the store for a while. And then, the next semester, I went back to the university.

What did you study?

Well, I took economics and law. Having lost five years, basically, I decided that I had to get through with this thing. So I went to undergraduate and law school in four years flat.

48 months was the GI Bill of Rights. And I did it in the 48 months, on the nose, went all year round. Still managed to do it cum laude, and so on. But did it in a hell of a hurry.

And then where did you go?

Well, I went to the Treasury in my last semester of law school and said, here I am, fellows. And they said, fine. So I became a lawyer for the Treasury on the international finance side and council to the Office of International Finance in Treasury, became an assistant to the secretary for congressional matters as congressional liaison for the Treasury.

And then, when Kennedy and Nixon ran against each other, I decided that the congressional liaison officer's life was coming to a rapid end. You don't survive changes of administration, no matter what. And the last bill I lobbied through the Congress was the Inter-American Development Bank Act. And I helped draft a charter.

So next, I became the bank's first employee, and moved over there, and for 17, 18 years was the deputy general counsel and general counsel of the IED. And that got me into Latin America. And I got a tremendous amount of work throughout Latin-- every country in Latin America.

And then, when my oldest son finished high school, I decided I'd better make enough money so he could go to college. So I went into private practice, became a senior partner in one of these large Washington law firms, and built up a Latin-American practice, and then a European practice, and did quite well until I reached the age of 67 when they got rid of me when I'd reached the automatic age.

When did you get married?

I got married here in Washington in 1956.

And is your wife from Europe also?

No, but her parents were Greek immigrants to the United States. We have two children, two boys. And we're doing quite well.