

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,950

2
00:00:07,950 --> 00:00:10,950
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:10,950 --> 00:00:14,430
interview with Edward
Novikov, conducted

4
00:00:14,430 --> 00:00:22,360
by Gail Schwartz on September
22, 1996 in Washington DC.

5
00:00:22,360 --> 00:00:28,970
This is tape number one, side
A. What is your full name?

6
00:00:28,970 --> 00:00:32,020
Edward no middle
initial Novikov.

7
00:00:32,020 --> 00:00:33,740
And when were you born?

8
00:00:33,740 --> 00:00:36,170
April 9, 1926.

9
00:00:36,170 --> 00:00:37,520
And where were you born?

10
00:00:37,520 --> 00:00:38,960
In Roxbury, Massachusetts.

11
00:00:38,960 --> 00:00:42,140
Boston, a section of
Boston, Massachusetts.

12
00:00:42,140 --> 00:00:45,990
Let's talk about your

family, your parents

13
00:00:45,990 --> 00:00:47,210
and who made up your family.

14
00:00:47,210 --> 00:00:48,440
Who were your parents?

15
00:00:48,440 --> 00:00:53,970
My father came to this
country, to Boston

16
00:00:53,970 --> 00:00:56,180
in we're not quite
sure, but I think

17
00:00:56,180 --> 00:01:00,890
it was either 1912 or 1913.

18
00:01:00,890 --> 00:01:03,320
Arrived at East
Boston, which was

19
00:01:03,320 --> 00:01:06,740
an immigration station in those
days, similar to Ellis Island.

20
00:01:06,740 --> 00:01:10,200
And he met my mother
in Boston, who

21
00:01:10,200 --> 00:01:16,610
would come at about the age of
16 from Eishyshok by herself

22
00:01:16,610 --> 00:01:18,080
and settled in Boston.

23
00:01:18,080 --> 00:01:20,690
And they met and married--

24
00:01:20,690 --> 00:01:24,890

I think they got
married in 1916.

25
00:01:24,890 --> 00:01:26,510
Where did your father come from?

26
00:01:26,510 --> 00:01:29,030
He came from a place in--

27
00:01:29,030 --> 00:01:33,590
near Kiev, Russia,
in the Ukraine.

28
00:01:33,590 --> 00:01:37,940
And he was-- it's
a curious thing.

29
00:01:37,940 --> 00:01:40,100
He didn't speak Yiddish.

30
00:01:40,100 --> 00:01:41,000
Why?

31
00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:43,160
My mother daughter-in-law
found out for me.

32
00:01:43,160 --> 00:01:48,080
He was a tailor
in a Cossack town.

33
00:01:48,080 --> 00:01:50,990
And only the tradesmen who--

34
00:01:50,990 --> 00:01:51,920
he was a pants maker.

35
00:01:51,920 --> 00:01:54,440
His father-- his father
was a pants maker,

36
00:01:54,440 --> 00:01:56,480

and they made Cossack uniforms.

37

00:01:56,480 --> 00:02:00,470

And therefore he had no contact
with other Jews, really.

38

00:02:00,470 --> 00:02:02,780

So he never learned Yiddish.

39

00:02:02,780 --> 00:02:05,030

But he left with a
younger brother of his

40

00:02:05,030 --> 00:02:08,900

and came to this
country in 1912 or '13.

41

00:02:08,900 --> 00:02:10,669

I'm not sure which day it was.

42

00:02:10,669 --> 00:02:14,420

Did he talk about his
experiences in the Ukraine?

43

00:02:14,420 --> 00:02:15,980

Not really, not too much.

44

00:02:15,980 --> 00:02:19,480

He was only, I think,
18 when he left Russia.

45

00:02:19,480 --> 00:02:23,060

And I hardly remember
his background, really.

46

00:02:23,060 --> 00:02:26,043

Except that his father
was a pants maker.

47

00:02:26,043 --> 00:02:27,710

And he brought us--
when he got here, he

48

00:02:27,710 --> 00:02:29,418

brought over his whole
family, because he

49

00:02:29,418 --> 00:02:34,100

got a job as a tailor, and
became a prominent naval tailor

50

00:02:34,100 --> 00:02:36,800

in this country.

51

00:02:36,800 --> 00:02:43,220

That's how I started off my
life, because of him, in a way.

52

00:02:43,220 --> 00:02:46,400

And did your mother talk about
where she came from to you?

53

00:02:46,400 --> 00:02:48,290

A little bit.

54

00:02:48,290 --> 00:02:51,560

She talked about Eishyshok
and what was happening.

55

00:02:51,560 --> 00:02:55,952

Don't forget, I was pretty
young, and I didn't comprehend.

56

00:02:55,952 --> 00:02:57,410

And I don't whether
she did, or not

57

00:02:57,410 --> 00:02:59,060

be as we don't
have communication

58

00:02:59,060 --> 00:03:00,230

like we have today.

59

00:03:00,230 --> 00:03:02,330

But she used to talk
about her mother.

60
00:03:02,330 --> 00:03:07,220
Her mother ran a general
store in Eishyshok.

61
00:03:07,220 --> 00:03:09,040
Others who are more
familiar with Eishyshok

62
00:03:09,040 --> 00:03:11,180
can fill you in
better than I can.

63
00:03:11,180 --> 00:03:14,570
My grandfather was a
redheaded fiddle player.

64
00:03:14,570 --> 00:03:16,370
And some people have
told me he was sort of

65
00:03:16,370 --> 00:03:18,350
like the Fiddler on the Roof.

66
00:03:18,350 --> 00:03:20,210
But my grandmother
ran the store.

67
00:03:20,210 --> 00:03:22,970
They were fairly
prominent in Eishyshok.

68
00:03:22,970 --> 00:03:24,300
What was the family name?

69
00:03:24,300 --> 00:03:25,090
Pochter.

70
00:03:25,090 --> 00:03:26,450
P-O-C-H-T-ER.

71

00:03:26,450 --> 00:03:29,390

Pochter.

72

00:03:29,390 --> 00:03:31,670

So that's mostly what--

73

00:03:31,670 --> 00:03:33,860

and then during the
early parts of the war,

74

00:03:33,860 --> 00:03:37,400

you know, 1941, 1942, she was
getting disturbing letters

75

00:03:37,400 --> 00:03:40,720

about what's
happening in Europe.

76

00:03:40,720 --> 00:03:44,810

But I really didn't
comprehend what was happening,

77

00:03:44,810 --> 00:03:48,200

like most people in
this country didn't.

78

00:03:48,200 --> 00:03:51,560

Any other specific things
that she said about Eishyshok,

79

00:03:51,560 --> 00:03:52,910

any other families or--

80

00:03:52,910 --> 00:03:54,615

Well, didn't she-- the reason--

81

00:03:54,615 --> 00:03:56,240

I always used to
know, why did you come

82

00:03:56,240 --> 00:03:57,620

when you were 16 years old?

83

00:03:57,620 --> 00:03:59,330

What made you pick up and leave?

84

00:03:59,330 --> 00:04:03,940

She says, because I didn't
want to marry a non-Jewish man.

85

00:04:03,940 --> 00:04:07,910

And so she came to Boston,
where she had some aunts,

86

00:04:07,910 --> 00:04:09,600

and was living with them.

87

00:04:09,600 --> 00:04:12,410

She had a lot of
guts, my mother.

88

00:04:12,410 --> 00:04:14,570

She's no different than
the modern day woman today.

89

00:04:14,570 --> 00:04:16,850

I mean, she had a
tremendous amount of guts.

90

00:04:16,850 --> 00:04:18,870

Wonderful woman.

91

00:04:18,870 --> 00:04:20,959

And so she left, and
she met my father.

92

00:04:20,959 --> 00:04:26,700

And I have an older brother,
another sister in between,

93

00:04:26,700 --> 00:04:27,770

and me.

94

00:04:27,770 --> 00:04:30,390

So she didn't leave
relatives back in Eishyshok.

95
00:04:30,390 --> 00:04:32,240
Oh, she left the whole family.

96
00:04:32,240 --> 00:04:34,720
She left everybody
there, as far as I know.

97
00:04:34,720 --> 00:04:37,970
Her father, her mother,
brothers and sisters.

98
00:04:37,970 --> 00:04:41,720
I mean, I really have
no recollection of this.

99
00:04:41,720 --> 00:04:43,820
All of whom, as I
understand, went in a pit

100
00:04:43,820 --> 00:04:47,480
one night in 1944.

101
00:04:47,480 --> 00:04:49,370
Why she left in 19--

102
00:04:49,370 --> 00:04:52,680
a young woman of 16, why
she left I don't know.

103
00:04:52,680 --> 00:04:54,692
But whatever she did,
she did it for me.

104
00:04:54,692 --> 00:04:56,420
[CHUCKLES]

105
00:04:56,420 --> 00:04:59,013
And your father left
relatives in the Ukraine.

106

00:04:59,013 --> 00:05:00,680

Yeah, but he brought
them all over here.

107

00:05:00,680 --> 00:05:02,600

He brought a father,
a brother, and I

108

00:05:02,600 --> 00:05:05,880

think six brothers and sisters.

109

00:05:05,880 --> 00:05:08,150

So they all settled in Boston.

110

00:05:08,150 --> 00:05:09,930

Do you have any
brothers and sisters?

111

00:05:09,930 --> 00:05:11,627

Yes, I have an
older brother, who's

112

00:05:11,627 --> 00:05:12,710

eight years older than me.

113

00:05:12,710 --> 00:05:14,710

I have a sister who's
three years older than me,

114

00:05:14,710 --> 00:05:16,790

and myself.

115

00:05:16,790 --> 00:05:19,850

What language did your
family speak at home?

116

00:05:19,850 --> 00:05:21,320

Only English.

117

00:05:21,320 --> 00:05:23,412

My mother didn't speak
too much Yiddish either.

118
00:05:23,412 --> 00:05:25,370
She didn't speak Yiddish
at all that I know of.

119
00:05:25,370 --> 00:05:27,260
I don't know why,
but she didn't.

120
00:05:27,260 --> 00:05:29,660
My father went to East
Boston High School the day

121
00:05:29,660 --> 00:05:32,900
after he got off the
boat to learn English.

122
00:05:32,900 --> 00:05:38,990
And in those days, if you spoke
with a broken language, so

123
00:05:38,990 --> 00:05:40,880
to speak, you were a greener.

124
00:05:40,880 --> 00:05:42,560
They used to call you a greener.

125
00:05:42,560 --> 00:05:47,580
And my father didn't
want to be known as that.

126
00:05:47,580 --> 00:05:51,860
So we only spoke
English in our house.

127
00:05:51,860 --> 00:05:53,840
Now let's talk about
your education.

128
00:05:53,840 --> 00:05:55,340
Where did go--

129

00:05:55,340 --> 00:05:57,440

I went to grammar
school and high school

130

00:05:57,440 --> 00:05:59,660

in Brookline, Massachusetts.

131

00:05:59,660 --> 00:06:02,020

I actually graduated the
Browne & Nichols school

132

00:06:02,020 --> 00:06:05,760

in Cambridge, which is
near Harvard Square.

133

00:06:05,760 --> 00:06:07,310

And then I enlisted in the Army.

134

00:06:07,310 --> 00:06:09,170

OK, we'll get to
that in a moment.

135

00:06:09,170 --> 00:06:12,530

I never went to to,
answer your question.

136

00:06:12,530 --> 00:06:16,490

Let's talk about how
religious your family was.

137

00:06:16,490 --> 00:06:19,020

Semi, semi-religious.

138

00:06:19,020 --> 00:06:22,660

My father always went to
temple on the holidays.

139

00:06:22,660 --> 00:06:24,710

And you know, he made
yahrzeit and all that.

140

00:06:24,710 --> 00:06:30,750

He was not really a religious

Jew as we know them today,

141
00:06:30,750 --> 00:06:33,560
as we used to.

142
00:06:33,560 --> 00:06:37,250
And my mother [YIDDISH]
on Friday night.

143
00:06:37,250 --> 00:06:40,010
She was a cross-- it was a
cross between an Orthodox

144
00:06:40,010 --> 00:06:42,350
Jew and a conservative.

145
00:06:42,350 --> 00:06:47,620
We were basically conservative
Jews in that area.

146
00:06:47,620 --> 00:06:50,180
Were your family Zionists?

147
00:06:50,180 --> 00:06:51,692
No, not really.

148
00:06:51,692 --> 00:06:52,400
I don't think so.

149
00:06:52,400 --> 00:06:55,160

150
00:06:55,160 --> 00:06:56,660
Was it a very close family?

151
00:06:56,660 --> 00:06:57,590
Oh, yeah.

152
00:06:57,590 --> 00:07:00,723
My father and
mother, the greatest.

153

00:07:00,723 --> 00:07:02,390

I mean, they didn't
have a lot of money,

154

00:07:02,390 --> 00:07:04,760

my father and my mother,
and they struggled.

155

00:07:04,760 --> 00:07:07,160

Because all the
money that he made

156

00:07:07,160 --> 00:07:09,730

he sent to Europe to
bring his family in.

157

00:07:09,730 --> 00:07:13,520

And my mother must have been
a jewel to go along with it.

158

00:07:13,520 --> 00:07:16,980

Because she suffered, and she
was a sick woman, very sick.

159

00:07:16,980 --> 00:07:20,180

She had a leaking valve.

160

00:07:20,180 --> 00:07:25,430

And the noted heart
specialist, Sam Levine,

161

00:07:25,430 --> 00:07:29,990

who wrote the book on cardiology
at Harvard Medical School,

162

00:07:29,990 --> 00:07:30,830

was her doctor.

163

00:07:30,830 --> 00:07:34,252

And he says, I wish we
could replace the valve,

164

00:07:34,252 --> 00:07:35,510
but we can't.

165
00:07:35,510 --> 00:07:36,380
But now you could.

166
00:07:36,380 --> 00:07:42,590
She would-- so she died at
age 59, relatively young,

167
00:07:42,590 --> 00:07:45,320
a young woman.

168
00:07:45,320 --> 00:07:48,410
How would you
describe yourself when

169
00:07:48,410 --> 00:07:50,360
you were in elementary
school and high school?

170
00:07:50,360 --> 00:07:51,740
Were you very adventuresome?

171
00:07:51,740 --> 00:07:54,182
Did you take risks?

172
00:07:54,182 --> 00:07:54,890
What adjectives--

173
00:07:54,890 --> 00:07:58,140
To be honest with you, I
was not a good student.

174
00:07:58,140 --> 00:08:00,450
I didn't like school.

175
00:08:00,450 --> 00:08:03,290
I couldn't concentrate on books.

176
00:08:03,290 --> 00:08:07,980
I mean, I was more interested

in just doing something.

177

00:08:07,980 --> 00:08:09,560

So I was not a great student.

178

00:08:09,560 --> 00:08:13,040

I would have gone to college if

I wasn't for the war, I'm sure.

179

00:08:13,040 --> 00:08:15,320

But I didn't.

180

00:08:15,320 --> 00:08:21,120

I really wasn't interested

in school at all.

181

00:08:21,120 --> 00:08:24,380

But I was typical

of that, my group.

182

00:08:24,380 --> 00:08:26,720

I mean, when you go

into high school--

183

00:08:26,720 --> 00:08:29,930

and one of the reasons I went

to Browne & Nichols in Cambridge

184

00:08:29,930 --> 00:08:32,809

is because I wanted

to be able to have

185

00:08:32,809 --> 00:08:35,960

something outside of a--

186

00:08:35,960 --> 00:08:38,179

it was a possibility that

I wouldn't have graduated

187

00:08:38,179 --> 00:08:40,048

Brookline High in four years.

188

00:08:40,048 --> 00:08:41,840

So my sister said to
me, hey, why don't you

189

00:08:41,840 --> 00:08:43,190

go to Browne & Nichols?

190

00:08:43,190 --> 00:08:46,040

And they'll give you
personal attention.

191

00:08:46,040 --> 00:08:48,410

There was only like 96
kids in that school.

192

00:08:48,410 --> 00:08:51,680

It's a very famous prep
school in Boston today.

193

00:08:51,680 --> 00:08:53,570

It's called Browne &
Nichols Buckingham now,

194

00:08:53,570 --> 00:08:55,260

because it has girls.

195

00:08:55,260 --> 00:08:59,570

And so I just
graduated on schedule.

196

00:08:59,570 --> 00:09:01,410

But I really was
not a good student.

197

00:09:01,410 --> 00:09:02,390

I wasn't interested.

198

00:09:02,390 --> 00:09:05,300

That was my problem.

199

00:09:05,300 --> 00:09:07,640

And then you graduate
from high school.

200
00:09:07,640 --> 00:09:10,710
I graduated Browne
& Nichols in 1944.

201
00:09:10,710 --> 00:09:12,700
Well, I wasn't there,
but I got the degree.

202
00:09:12,700 --> 00:09:16,940
The date's '44, but I
actually graduated in '43.

203
00:09:16,940 --> 00:09:18,500
And what happened
when you finished?

204
00:09:18,500 --> 00:09:22,190
Well, in those days,
we were all patriotic.

205
00:09:22,190 --> 00:09:25,040
And I decided that I wasn't--

206
00:09:25,040 --> 00:09:26,990
partly patriotism.

207
00:09:26,990 --> 00:09:29,720
But the Navy and the
Army had programs,

208
00:09:29,720 --> 00:09:32,910
where they would take
enlistee kids at 17,

209
00:09:32,910 --> 00:09:37,310
send them to college,
and then they would go on

210
00:09:37,310 --> 00:09:39,590
to become officers
eventually, but at least they

211
00:09:39,590 --> 00:09:42,620
would finish college while
the war was still on.

212
00:09:42,620 --> 00:09:43,610
And so I joined--

213
00:09:43,610 --> 00:09:46,580
I couldn't pass the physical
for the Navy program,

214
00:09:46,580 --> 00:09:49,850
so I passed-- but I did
pass for the Army program.

215
00:09:49,850 --> 00:09:53,900
So I enlisted at 17 and went
to the University of Maine

216
00:09:53,900 --> 00:09:56,630
for three months.

217
00:09:56,630 --> 00:09:59,120
What month did you begin?

218
00:09:59,120 --> 00:10:02,750
I enlisted in December of '43,
and I must have gone to Maine

219
00:10:02,750 --> 00:10:04,690
sometime that spring.

220
00:10:04,690 --> 00:10:06,140
And I did one semester.

221
00:10:06,140 --> 00:10:07,700
That I remember.

222
00:10:07,700 --> 00:10:10,040
As an engineering student.

223

00:10:10,040 --> 00:10:12,200
And then--

224
00:10:12,200 --> 00:10:14,720
At that point, did you know--

225
00:10:14,720 --> 00:10:17,330
how much did you know that
what was happening to the Jews

226
00:10:17,330 --> 00:10:17,830
in Europe?

227
00:10:17,830 --> 00:10:18,860
Very little.

228
00:10:18,860 --> 00:10:21,100
Frankly, very little.

229
00:10:21,100 --> 00:10:25,070
The media in this country
didn't play it up very much.

230
00:10:25,070 --> 00:10:28,320
And I was in a high
school-- in a college

231
00:10:28,320 --> 00:10:29,670
that's sort of isolated.

232
00:10:29,670 --> 00:10:32,790
University of Maine's in a town
about 12 miles north of Bangor,

233
00:10:32,790 --> 00:10:33,760
Maine.

234
00:10:33,760 --> 00:10:35,660
Orono was the name of it.

235
00:10:35,660 --> 00:10:38,120
Most of the students

up there at the time

236

00:10:38,120 --> 00:10:42,850

were either in my program,
what we call recruit--

237

00:10:42,850 --> 00:10:46,090

I think it was A-12,
they called it.

238

00:10:46,090 --> 00:10:50,750

Or they were from Maine,
children of Maine families,

239

00:10:50,750 --> 00:10:52,760

and they were sort of
out of the mainstream.

240

00:10:52,760 --> 00:10:53,630

You know.

241

00:10:53,630 --> 00:10:56,263

So I didn't really
know that much.

242

00:10:56,263 --> 00:10:57,680

Except when I went
home, my mother

243

00:10:57,680 --> 00:10:59,055

would cry a little
bit about what

244

00:10:59,055 --> 00:11:01,810

she hears about what's going
on in Europe and so forth.

245

00:11:01,810 --> 00:11:02,660

That was about it.

246

00:11:02,660 --> 00:11:05,870

And did she have any contact
with people back in Europe?

247
00:11:05,870 --> 00:11:07,280
Very little.

248
00:11:07,280 --> 00:11:09,230
There was no mail
that I know of.

249
00:11:09,230 --> 00:11:11,388
Every so often she'd get
a call from somebody,

250
00:11:11,388 --> 00:11:13,430
saying that somebody got
a letter or somebody got

251
00:11:13,430 --> 00:11:16,910
this, got that, and that
her family was in trouble.

252
00:11:16,910 --> 00:11:19,220
And that was about it.

253
00:11:19,220 --> 00:11:22,700
In those years,
'42, '43, I don't

254
00:11:22,700 --> 00:11:24,893
think she had much contact.

255
00:11:24,893 --> 00:11:26,810
And I think she had a
problem, because I don't

256
00:11:26,810 --> 00:11:29,200
think she could write Yiddish.

257
00:11:29,200 --> 00:11:30,980
So I think that was
partly the problem,

258
00:11:30,980 --> 00:11:33,700

but that's a
supposition on my part.

259
00:11:33,700 --> 00:11:35,520
OK, now you're at the
University of Maine.

260
00:11:35,520 --> 00:11:36,020
Right.

261
00:11:36,020 --> 00:11:36,978
And then what happened?

262
00:11:36,978 --> 00:11:41,810
Well, then the war in
Europe was going badly,

263
00:11:41,810 --> 00:11:46,280
because D-day was in
June of '44, as you know.

264
00:11:46,280 --> 00:11:48,950
And they were
losing a lot of men

265
00:11:48,950 --> 00:11:53,040
in the infantry, the ones
who actually do the fighting.

266
00:11:53,040 --> 00:11:56,120
And they've closed
the program entirely,

267
00:11:56,120 --> 00:11:58,120
and they took all
of us, and I went

268
00:11:58,120 --> 00:12:01,150
to a place called Camp
Landing in Florida,

269
00:12:01,150 --> 00:12:03,070
to become an

infantry replacement.

270

00:12:03,070 --> 00:12:05,120

From there, I went to
Fort Meade, Maryland,

271

00:12:05,120 --> 00:12:06,850

which is just around here.

272

00:12:06,850 --> 00:12:09,220

And from Maryland, I went
as an infantry replacement,

273

00:12:09,220 --> 00:12:12,090

I landed in Marseilles,
and I ended up--

274

00:12:12,090 --> 00:12:13,750

I'm trying to
abbreviate this for you.

275

00:12:13,750 --> 00:12:16,770

I ended up as a rifleman--

276

00:12:16,770 --> 00:12:20,020

745 is the designation--
in the 90th Infantry

277

00:12:20,020 --> 00:12:22,360

Division, which was
a National Guard

278

00:12:22,360 --> 00:12:25,850

unit from Texas and Oklahoma.

279

00:12:25,850 --> 00:12:29,290

This is where you are in
Marseilles, this is what--

280

00:12:29,290 --> 00:12:33,640

When I ended up-- and they were
at that time on the Saar River,

281
00:12:33,640 --> 00:12:38,980
just south of what we
call the Bulge now.

282
00:12:38,980 --> 00:12:42,293
And they were just in sort
of like a holding pattern,

283
00:12:42,293 --> 00:12:43,960
because it was the
middle of the winter.

284
00:12:43,960 --> 00:12:45,550
When I got there,
it was Thanksgiving,

285
00:12:45,550 --> 00:12:46,900
a little after Thanksgiving.

286
00:12:46,900 --> 00:12:49,030
So we're talking
about November 1944.

287
00:12:49,030 --> 00:12:49,750
Right.

288
00:12:49,750 --> 00:12:52,467
And then the Bulge started.

289
00:12:52,467 --> 00:12:54,550
I don't know if you know
the history of the Bulge.

290
00:12:54,550 --> 00:12:56,090
I'm sure you do.

291
00:12:56,090 --> 00:12:58,210
Matter of fact, I just
showed a tape of it,

292
00:12:58,210 --> 00:13:00,070
showed it to my kids.

293
00:13:00,070 --> 00:13:04,060
Unfortunately, I ended
up in an attack company

294
00:13:04,060 --> 00:13:09,790
of the 90th Infantry Division,
which went in from the south.

295
00:13:09,790 --> 00:13:12,100
We were mobilized
one night, we went

296
00:13:12,100 --> 00:13:17,080
north to relieve the 101st
Airborne in Bastogne.

297
00:13:17,080 --> 00:13:19,900
And I don't want to
go into it, because I

298
00:13:19,900 --> 00:13:21,490
cry when I hear about.

299
00:13:21,490 --> 00:13:26,470
Bastogne-- the Battle of
the Bulge was the bloodiest

300
00:13:26,470 --> 00:13:28,330
history--

301
00:13:28,330 --> 00:13:31,330
fighting history of the
US army in history outside

302
00:13:31,330 --> 00:13:33,310
of Gettysburg, I believe.

303
00:13:33,310 --> 00:13:37,960
And I think we had 80,000
casualties that winter.

304

00:13:37,960 --> 00:13:39,460
I was very fortunate.

305
00:13:39,460 --> 00:13:40,870
I'll be honest with you.

306
00:13:40,870 --> 00:13:43,960
My company was wiped
out, literally.

307
00:13:43,960 --> 00:13:45,790
Figuratively wiped out.

308
00:13:45,790 --> 00:13:47,950
I was the only one
who walked out.

309
00:13:47,950 --> 00:13:55,770
I had minor shrapnel
bruises and cuts on my back.

310
00:13:55,770 --> 00:13:57,090
But I walked out.

311
00:13:57,090 --> 00:13:59,920
And I so I had a bad
experience in the Bulge.

312
00:13:59,920 --> 00:14:00,480
I really did.

313
00:14:00,480 --> 00:14:04,330
I don't think this
interview is--

314
00:14:04,330 --> 00:14:05,850
but it was terrible.

315
00:14:05,850 --> 00:14:07,900
So you are 18 years old now.

316
00:14:07,900 --> 00:14:11,500

I'm now 18 year
old, and I'm living

317
00:14:11,500 --> 00:14:15,400
in the ground like an animal
in the middle of a winter,

318
00:14:15,400 --> 00:14:16,570
being shot at.

319
00:14:16,570 --> 00:14:19,000
I mean, it's hard to explain.

320
00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:21,260
It was a terrible,
terrible experience.

321
00:14:21,260 --> 00:14:23,045
I mean, it couldn't
have been worse.

322
00:14:23,045 --> 00:14:24,670
I showed it to my
kids the other night.

323
00:14:24,670 --> 00:14:26,360
I have a tape by--

324
00:14:26,360 --> 00:14:28,600
I think it's the American
Heritage Foundation

325
00:14:28,600 --> 00:14:29,860
of the Battle of the Bulge.

326
00:14:29,860 --> 00:14:31,570
It was terrible, terrible.

327
00:14:31,570 --> 00:14:34,780
I mean, I can't tell you how bad
it was, but I lived through it.

328

00:14:34,780 --> 00:14:36,160
Somehow I lived.

329
00:14:36,160 --> 00:14:37,840
What was it like for
a young 18-year-old

330
00:14:37,840 --> 00:14:40,390
to see all that
death around you?

331
00:14:40,390 --> 00:14:42,110
First time I saw somebody--

332
00:14:42,110 --> 00:14:43,930
don't forget it was snowing.

333
00:14:43,930 --> 00:14:48,070
And blood turns
dark in the snow.

334
00:14:48,070 --> 00:14:50,380
You know, old blood.

335
00:14:50,380 --> 00:14:56,740
And to see what body, corpses
the way it stiffened up?

336
00:14:56,740 --> 00:14:58,210
I mean, it just was terrible.

337
00:14:58,210 --> 00:14:59,870
I mean, it couldn't be worse.

338
00:14:59,870 --> 00:15:05,880
So I was brought from a child
to an adult in about 24 hours,

339
00:15:05,880 --> 00:15:06,500
I'd say.

340
00:15:06,500 --> 00:15:07,750

Or less.

341
00:15:07,750 --> 00:15:11,070
It was a terrible,
terrible experience.

342
00:15:11,070 --> 00:15:13,138
Were there many
Jews in your unit?

343
00:15:13,138 --> 00:15:13,930
I was the only one.

344
00:15:13,930 --> 00:15:14,680
I don't know how.

345
00:15:14,680 --> 00:15:16,240
I mean, I think I was
only one in my com--

346
00:15:16,240 --> 00:15:18,240
I went through the whole
war without any contact

347
00:15:18,240 --> 00:15:19,750
with Jewish people.

348
00:15:19,750 --> 00:15:21,010
I'll be honest with you.

349
00:15:21,010 --> 00:15:24,340
I think I met a rabbi
once at Christmas time.

350
00:15:24,340 --> 00:15:26,890
They were having services.

351
00:15:26,890 --> 00:15:30,070
There were some rabbis
and priests came around.

352
00:15:30,070 --> 00:15:33,120

But when you were in the
infantry in the Bulge,

353
00:15:33,120 --> 00:15:36,110
you're not in this
world anymore.

354
00:15:36,110 --> 00:15:38,740
You don't know what's
going on, except somebody's

355
00:15:38,740 --> 00:15:41,500
shooting at you, and
somebody is telling you,

356
00:15:41,500 --> 00:15:43,900
let's go, we're going this way.

357
00:15:43,900 --> 00:15:48,830
I mean, you're disconnected
from the real world.

358
00:15:48,830 --> 00:15:52,630
And so I don't think--
there were certainly

359
00:15:52,630 --> 00:15:54,280
no Jews in my company.

360
00:15:54,280 --> 00:15:54,940
It changed.

361
00:15:54,940 --> 00:15:57,430
I mean, every day let's say
there were 30 people who

362
00:15:57,430 --> 00:16:01,810
started the day in my
platoon, then maybe 18

363
00:16:01,810 --> 00:16:03,040
at the end of the day.

364

00:16:03,040 --> 00:16:05,470

Then the next day,
we'd get four recruits.

365

00:16:05,470 --> 00:16:06,550

So now we're at 22.

366

00:16:06,550 --> 00:16:09,280

Then at the end of that
day, we had 16 again.

367

00:16:09,280 --> 00:16:13,270

I mean, there were no
relationships with anybody,

368

00:16:13,270 --> 00:16:16,360

Jewish or non-Jewish.

369

00:16:16,360 --> 00:16:18,430

Were there any negative
experiences you

370

00:16:18,430 --> 00:16:19,792

had because you were Jewish?

371

00:16:19,792 --> 00:16:21,000

Were you completely accepted?

372

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:21,500

Oh, yeah.

373

00:16:21,500 --> 00:16:24,778

When I was in basic training
in Camp Landing in Florida--

374

00:16:24,778 --> 00:16:25,570

I'm glad you asked.

375

00:16:25,570 --> 00:16:28,210

That's a good question--

376

00:16:28,210 --> 00:16:33,150

I was in a camp that--

377

00:16:33,150 --> 00:16:34,211

or in a--

378

00:16:34,211 --> 00:16:36,917

379

00:16:36,917 --> 00:16:38,300

I'd guess you call them a hut.

380

00:16:38,300 --> 00:16:43,940

There was a 24 room bed
hut for training camp.

381

00:16:43,940 --> 00:16:47,180

And I'd say 20 of
them were from--

382

00:16:47,180 --> 00:16:50,690

were white farmers from
someplace like Selma, Alabama

383

00:16:50,690 --> 00:16:52,400

or somewhere in that area.

384

00:16:52,400 --> 00:16:53,990

And they'd never
seen Jews before.

385

00:16:53,990 --> 00:16:59,090

And me, and there was a kid
from Worcester by the name of--

386

00:16:59,090 --> 00:17:00,380

I can't remember his name.

387

00:17:00,380 --> 00:17:02,610

But it was a nice and
Jewish name like Epstein

388

00:17:02,610 --> 00:17:06,079
or something like that,
and me, who my name is not

389
00:17:06,079 --> 00:17:10,730
quite recognizable as
Jewish, and an Irish kid

390
00:17:10,730 --> 00:17:12,710
from Massachusetts.

391
00:17:12,710 --> 00:17:16,579
The three of us went, were
in with these 22 or 21

392
00:17:16,579 --> 00:17:18,230
other white farmers.

393
00:17:18,230 --> 00:17:21,680
And they knew that Jews, there
was something wrong with Jews.

394
00:17:21,680 --> 00:17:26,869
They didn't-- and the kid from
Worcester spoke with a little

395
00:17:26,869 --> 00:17:28,880
Jewish accent, and
he acted Jewish.

396
00:17:28,880 --> 00:17:30,140
He was typical Jewish.

397
00:17:30,140 --> 00:17:32,690
I wasn't because I wasn't.

398
00:17:32,690 --> 00:17:35,180
And they tried to
beat him up one night,

399
00:17:35,180 --> 00:17:36,590
because he was Jewish.

400

00:17:36,590 --> 00:17:37,520

And I stopped them.

401

00:17:37,520 --> 00:17:41,327

And the Irish kid that
was with me helped me.

402

00:17:41,327 --> 00:17:42,160

And we stopped them.

403

00:17:42,160 --> 00:17:44,300

We ended it.

404

00:17:44,300 --> 00:17:47,270

So that was the first
real experience,

405

00:17:47,270 --> 00:17:50,300

but I had it in my life earlier.

406

00:17:50,300 --> 00:17:53,210

And anti-Semitism was something
I lived with all the time.

407

00:17:53,210 --> 00:17:56,560

My father had a store in
Charlestown, Massachusetts,

408

00:17:56,560 --> 00:17:59,240

which is predominantly
Irish Catholic.

409

00:17:59,240 --> 00:18:01,250

And so when I was a kid,
I was on the streets

410

00:18:01,250 --> 00:18:04,370

of an Irish Catholic community.

411

00:18:04,370 --> 00:18:06,740

That's where Jack
Kennedy first ran

412
00:18:06,740 --> 00:18:08,780
for the House of
Representatives.

413
00:18:08,780 --> 00:18:11,420
And so I was used to
anti-Semitism and having little

414
00:18:11,420 --> 00:18:13,380
scuffles with--

415
00:18:13,380 --> 00:18:18,180
being called a sheeny and all
of this that goes with it.

416
00:18:18,180 --> 00:18:20,780
So I didn't have any problem
when I got to Florida,

417
00:18:20,780 --> 00:18:22,250
because I expected it.

418
00:18:22,250 --> 00:18:23,520
But some people didn't.

419
00:18:23,520 --> 00:18:26,810
But that was-- but
once we went to Europe,

420
00:18:26,810 --> 00:18:29,570
once I went on the
boat, everybody

421
00:18:29,570 --> 00:18:31,010
was just interested in living.

422
00:18:31,010 --> 00:18:33,357
I mean, in my outfit,
in the infantry,

423
00:18:33,357 --> 00:18:34,940

we weren't in the
Quartermaster Corps.

424
00:18:34,940 --> 00:18:38,750
We weren't in
Eisenhower's headquarters.

425
00:18:38,750 --> 00:18:41,420
We weren't anywhere where
it was nice and warm.

426
00:18:41,420 --> 00:18:43,250
We were cold all the time.

427
00:18:43,250 --> 00:18:45,180
We were being shot at.

428
00:18:45,180 --> 00:18:48,770
And all we wanted
to have is to live.

429
00:18:48,770 --> 00:18:54,000
And anti-Semitism
didn't mean a thing.

430
00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:57,290
I mean, I could get in a foxhole
and it was 0 degrees with

431
00:18:57,290 --> 00:18:58,250
somebody you didn't--

432
00:18:58,250 --> 00:19:00,440
he didn't check to see
if I was Jewish or not.

433
00:19:00,440 --> 00:19:02,750
We were sharing body warmth.

434
00:19:02,750 --> 00:19:04,290
That was the
important part of it.

435

00:19:04,290 --> 00:19:05,510

OK.

436

00:19:05,510 --> 00:19:08,160

So that brings you to Germany.

437

00:19:08,160 --> 00:19:09,290

I was going to say.

438

00:19:09,290 --> 00:19:12,790

But it sounds like you were
not a shy retiring young man.

439

00:19:12,790 --> 00:19:15,500

No, I never was, I don't think.

440

00:19:15,500 --> 00:19:17,192

I got worse as I got older.

441

00:19:17,192 --> 00:19:19,040

[CHUCKLES]

442

00:19:19,040 --> 00:19:19,990

OK.

443

00:19:19,990 --> 00:19:22,310

And now you're
getting to Germany?

444

00:19:22,310 --> 00:19:28,730

Yeah, so then the 3rd
Army broke through

445

00:19:28,730 --> 00:19:33,890

I guess in January of 1945.

446

00:19:33,890 --> 00:19:37,700

And we went to--

447

00:19:37,700 --> 00:19:40,860

we crossed the Rhine and--

448
00:19:40,860 --> 00:19:43,190
trying to remember
the name of it.

449
00:19:43,190 --> 00:19:44,660
Cathedral-- a lot of cathedrals.

450
00:19:44,660 --> 00:19:46,340
To Mainz?

451
00:19:46,340 --> 00:19:47,600
To Mainz?

452
00:19:47,600 --> 00:19:48,140
It could be.

453
00:19:48,140 --> 00:19:48,740
Yeah, Mainz.

454
00:19:48,740 --> 00:19:49,820
Yeah.

455
00:19:49,820 --> 00:19:50,930
And the night before--

456
00:19:50,930 --> 00:19:52,440
interesting-- I went in as a--

457
00:19:52,440 --> 00:19:57,710
I took a combat patrol in, and
we brought out 76 prisoners.

458
00:19:57,710 --> 00:20:02,690
At that point, we were
finding children and old men.

459
00:20:02,690 --> 00:20:06,260
But the SS wouldn't
let them surrender.

460

00:20:06,260 --> 00:20:11,270

So in the streets of
Mainz they had shot

461

00:20:11,270 --> 00:20:13,370

a German trying to surrender.

462

00:20:13,370 --> 00:20:17,180

And he must have been hit in the
kidney, and he was screaming,

463

00:20:17,180 --> 00:20:18,812

and it was terrible.

464

00:20:18,812 --> 00:20:20,270

Most of us were
used to it, but you

465

00:20:20,270 --> 00:20:22,510

know it didn't mean anything.

466

00:20:22,510 --> 00:20:25,700

And so I crossed
the bridge at Mainz.

467

00:20:25,700 --> 00:20:27,920

And then we went
through Southern Germany

468

00:20:27,920 --> 00:20:30,800

generally to Pilsen.

469

00:20:30,800 --> 00:20:34,580

We cut it-- the 3rd Army, you
can document where we went,

470

00:20:34,580 --> 00:20:36,440

but I don't know if
that's part of this.

471

00:20:36,440 --> 00:20:41,510

But I went across Germany,
Southern Germany to--

472
00:20:41,510 --> 00:20:43,100
we ended up in Pilsen.

473
00:20:43,100 --> 00:20:44,690
And we were there
maybe a day or two,

474
00:20:44,690 --> 00:20:46,815
when I guess there was an
agreement with the Allied

475
00:20:46,815 --> 00:20:48,860
forces, and we pulled
back to a place

476
00:20:48,860 --> 00:20:51,440
called Sulzbach-Rosenberg.

477
00:20:51,440 --> 00:20:54,380
What was it like for you
as a young Jewish soldier

478
00:20:54,380 --> 00:20:57,020
to be in Germany?

479
00:20:57,020 --> 00:20:58,470
I didn't like it.

480
00:20:58,470 --> 00:21:01,340
I'll be honest with you,
I haven't been back since.

481
00:21:01,340 --> 00:21:03,460
I hate Germany.

482
00:21:03,460 --> 00:21:05,210
Not because of the
people are there.

483
00:21:05,210 --> 00:21:06,200
I mean, it's just--

484

00:21:06,200 --> 00:21:10,343
the experience I had in Germany,
nobody knew what happened.

485

00:21:10,343 --> 00:21:11,510
I mean, this is interesting.

486

00:21:11,510 --> 00:21:12,885
You know, I was
in infantry, so I

487

00:21:12,885 --> 00:21:16,670
had contact with German
civilians as we went through.

488

00:21:16,670 --> 00:21:19,190
Nobody ever knew about
any concentration camps.

489

00:21:19,190 --> 00:21:21,770
Nobody never knew
about killing Jews.

490

00:21:21,770 --> 00:21:23,960
Nobody knew anything.

491

00:21:23,960 --> 00:21:26,500
It was like a--

492

00:21:26,500 --> 00:21:29,050
it was evaporating.

493

00:21:29,050 --> 00:21:32,030
But when we got to
Rosenberg, the 3rd Army

494

00:21:32,030 --> 00:21:35,840
had a ruling, Patton,
no fraternization

495

00:21:35,840 --> 00:21:37,530

with German girls.

496

00:21:37,530 --> 00:21:41,570

So now the war is over, and
most of us, an 18-year-old boy.

497

00:21:41,570 --> 00:21:43,570

You know, you're out
looking for girls.

498

00:21:43,570 --> 00:21:46,180

So we didn't really
have any contact

499

00:21:46,180 --> 00:21:48,820

with the general
German population.

500

00:21:48,820 --> 00:21:52,030

Rosenberg was a small town
that had a steelworks in it.

501

00:21:52,030 --> 00:21:54,060

Sort of like a--

502

00:21:54,060 --> 00:22:00,160

well, it was like Lowell, Mass,
Lawrence, industrial town.

503

00:22:00,160 --> 00:22:05,400

And so we ended up--

504

00:22:05,400 --> 00:22:13,000

it was a temporary prison camp
in Rosenberg for SS troopers.

505

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:14,350

And I ended up--

506

00:22:14,350 --> 00:22:18,190

my duty was to sit
up in a guard tower

507

00:22:18,190 --> 00:22:20,290
during that period of time.

508

00:22:20,290 --> 00:22:22,370
Then in August of--

509

00:22:22,370 --> 00:22:26,200
I'm trying to move it along.

510

00:22:26,200 --> 00:22:28,445
Had you not been
to Flossenburg yet?

511

00:22:28,445 --> 00:22:30,820
Well, Flossenburg we passed
through on the way to Pilsen.

512

00:22:30,820 --> 00:22:32,500
Well, let's talk.

513

00:22:32,500 --> 00:22:33,040
Let's talk.

514

00:22:33,040 --> 00:22:34,535
Let's go back a little bit.

515

00:22:34,535 --> 00:22:36,590
Flossenburg was a place
we walked through--

516

00:22:36,590 --> 00:22:38,470
This was on your way,
you said, to Pilsen.

517

00:22:38,470 --> 00:22:40,277
On the way to the
end of the war.

518

00:22:40,277 --> 00:22:41,860
You really didn't
know where you were.

519

00:22:41,860 --> 00:22:43,200

The street signs
didn't mean anything.

520

00:22:43,200 --> 00:22:45,040

You know, you didn't
know where you were.

521

00:22:45,040 --> 00:22:49,600

Flossenburg, I remember the
ovens as we went through,

522

00:22:49,600 --> 00:22:52,690

but there were no Jews, to
my knowledge, in Flossenburg.

523

00:22:52,690 --> 00:22:55,450

I think Flossenburg was
political prisoners, either

524

00:22:55,450 --> 00:23:00,130

French, some other
countries, some other--

525

00:23:00,130 --> 00:23:02,070

I didn't see any Jews
around there at all.

526

00:23:02,070 --> 00:23:06,050

And when I asked if anybody
was Jewish, nobody was Jewish.

527

00:23:06,050 --> 00:23:07,960

So at this point,
you knew about camps?

528

00:23:07,960 --> 00:23:08,510

Of course.

529

00:23:08,510 --> 00:23:09,010

I mean--

530

00:23:09,010 --> 00:23:09,880
How did you know?

531
00:23:09,880 --> 00:23:11,440
Smell.

532
00:23:11,440 --> 00:23:12,520
The smell.

533
00:23:12,520 --> 00:23:14,350
It was terrible.

534
00:23:14,350 --> 00:23:17,275
When you got to Flossenburg,
you could tell what it was.

535
00:23:17,275 --> 00:23:18,400
I mean, that's how we knew.

536
00:23:18,400 --> 00:23:22,468
I didn't know until the war
actually was almost over.

537
00:23:22,468 --> 00:23:23,260
So we went through.

538
00:23:23,260 --> 00:23:25,552
I remember we went through--
the Germans were going out

539
00:23:25,552 --> 00:23:27,220
the back door, so to speak.

540
00:23:27,220 --> 00:23:29,260
And we were coming
in the front gate.

541
00:23:29,260 --> 00:23:30,370
And I saw the ovens.

542
00:23:30,370 --> 00:23:33,550
Some of them were still burning.

543

00:23:33,550 --> 00:23:36,220

Some of them in the barracks.

544

00:23:36,220 --> 00:23:39,160

You know, the typical
German concentration camp,

545

00:23:39,160 --> 00:23:41,290

which I'm sure you know of.

546

00:23:41,290 --> 00:23:42,370

But then we moved on.

547

00:23:42,370 --> 00:23:43,690

We never stayed.

548

00:23:43,690 --> 00:23:45,100

We didn't do anything.

549

00:23:45,100 --> 00:23:46,270

Do you speak German?

550

00:23:46,270 --> 00:23:46,840

No.

551

00:23:46,840 --> 00:23:48,670

I speak a broken
Yiddish, so to speak.

552

00:23:48,670 --> 00:23:51,070

You know, you can manage.

553

00:23:51,070 --> 00:23:53,590

Did you speak to any of the
prisoners at Flossenburg?

554

00:23:53,590 --> 00:23:54,550

No, no.

555

00:23:54,550 --> 00:23:55,750

We just kept moving on.

556
00:23:55,750 --> 00:23:59,103
We just went through.

557
00:23:59,103 --> 00:24:00,520
The system, I
guess, in those days

558
00:24:00,520 --> 00:24:04,450
was for a political unit of
some sort to come in after us

559
00:24:04,450 --> 00:24:07,870
and take over the camp
and tend to the wounded

560
00:24:07,870 --> 00:24:09,550
or the sick or whatever.

561
00:24:09,550 --> 00:24:11,190
So we just moved on.

562
00:24:11,190 --> 00:24:13,550
So did you have any
duties at Flossenburg?

563
00:24:13,550 --> 00:24:15,220
No, no.

564
00:24:15,220 --> 00:24:16,690
And when were you there?

565
00:24:16,690 --> 00:24:19,390
Was it May '45?

566
00:24:19,390 --> 00:24:22,210
Must have been, just
about the time the--

567
00:24:22,210 --> 00:24:23,380
just before the war ended.

568
00:24:23,380 --> 00:24:25,030
It had to be before
the war ended,

569
00:24:25,030 --> 00:24:28,888
because we were still fighting
until we got the Pilsen.

570
00:24:28,888 --> 00:24:30,930
The war was still going
on till we got to Pilsen.

571
00:24:30,930 --> 00:24:33,700
So it could have been in June.

572
00:24:33,700 --> 00:24:36,940
Did you have any preparation
from your superiors

573
00:24:36,940 --> 00:24:38,810
about what you may
see in Flossenburg?

574
00:24:38,810 --> 00:24:40,030
None.

575
00:24:40,030 --> 00:24:43,090
I don't think my superiors knew
what they were going to find.

576
00:24:43,090 --> 00:24:44,860
And who knew who my
superiors were anyway?

577
00:24:44,860 --> 00:24:46,960
Every day was a new one.

578
00:24:46,960 --> 00:24:50,290
Second lieutenants
were cannon fodder.

579

00:24:50,290 --> 00:24:51,490
I was a private.

580
00:24:51,490 --> 00:24:53,890
I think I made private
first class at some point.

581
00:24:53,890 --> 00:24:55,840
But everybody was
acting something.

582
00:24:55,840 --> 00:24:57,010
You were acting sergeant.

583
00:24:57,010 --> 00:24:58,540
You were acting this.

584
00:24:58,540 --> 00:25:03,010
It's hard to explain to
someone who doesn't know

585
00:25:03,010 --> 00:25:04,990
what happened in those days.

586
00:25:04,990 --> 00:25:07,570
The officers were fluid.

587
00:25:07,570 --> 00:25:10,810
They didn't wear insignia
because they would get killed.

588
00:25:10,810 --> 00:25:13,010
I mean, it was a
different world.

589
00:25:13,010 --> 00:25:17,770
I mean, you couldn't
understand the--

590
00:25:17,770 --> 00:25:20,560
so no one, I think, was
prepared for what they saw.

591

00:25:20,560 --> 00:25:21,880

Certainly I wasn't.

592

00:25:21,880 --> 00:25:26,350

I mean, to see an oven with
a body in it being burned?

593

00:25:26,350 --> 00:25:31,150

I mean, the old fashioned
coal-burning stoves, you know,

594

00:25:31,150 --> 00:25:35,590

ovens with the big
doors that open up?

595

00:25:35,590 --> 00:25:38,790

That's why when I talked
to some civilians,

596

00:25:38,790 --> 00:25:42,580

I'd say, how couldn't you know
what was going on in there?

597

00:25:42,580 --> 00:25:45,637

You can smell the place
for five miles away.

598

00:25:45,637 --> 00:25:46,720

I mean, there was an odor.

599

00:25:46,720 --> 00:25:50,860

You know, burning flesh
has a terrible odor.

600

00:25:50,860 --> 00:25:54,590

But everybody said, we didn't
know what was going on there.

601

00:25:54,590 --> 00:25:55,660

And then the chimneys?

602

00:25:55,660 --> 00:25:59,950

I mean, it isn't like today,
where we have clean heat.

603
00:25:59,950 --> 00:26:02,440
I mean, billows of
black smoke used

604
00:26:02,440 --> 00:26:03,990
to come out of those chimneys.

605
00:26:03,990 --> 00:26:05,627
It was still going
when we got there.

606
00:26:05,627 --> 00:26:07,210
I mean, the Germans
didn't stop till I

607
00:26:07,210 --> 00:26:09,210
think the day we came
to the front gate.

608
00:26:09,210 --> 00:26:11,680
It was still going.

609
00:26:11,680 --> 00:26:16,310
But then most of the
camps, where the Jews were,

610
00:26:16,310 --> 00:26:21,490
were in Poland,
in Czechoslovakia.

611
00:26:21,490 --> 00:26:22,630
But we didn't get--

612
00:26:22,630 --> 00:26:24,490
I don't think we stayed
in Pilsen that long.

613
00:26:24,490 --> 00:26:26,440
The agreement was
signed somewhere,

614
00:26:26,440 --> 00:26:28,390
and we were ordered to
go back to Rosenberg.

615
00:26:28,390 --> 00:26:30,610
And I never saw any Auschwitz.

616
00:26:30,610 --> 00:26:33,010
I didn't see any
of the major camps.

617
00:26:33,010 --> 00:26:35,860
How long were you
in Flossenburg?

618
00:26:35,860 --> 00:26:37,647
Probably a day.

619
00:26:37,647 --> 00:26:38,980
Got there in the morning, maybe.

620
00:26:38,980 --> 00:26:42,580
And we moved on that
evening or the next morning.

621
00:26:42,580 --> 00:26:44,900
Did you have any duties
to perform at Flossenburg?

622
00:26:44,900 --> 00:26:45,640
None, none.

623
00:26:45,640 --> 00:26:46,690
We were just--

624
00:26:46,690 --> 00:26:48,940
Jesus Christ-- pardon me.

625
00:26:48,940 --> 00:26:51,340
Look what-- can
you believe this?

626
00:26:51,340 --> 00:26:52,810
Can you see what's going--

627
00:26:52,810 --> 00:26:54,050
what is this place?

628
00:26:54,050 --> 00:26:57,850
You know it, was awesome.

629
00:26:57,850 --> 00:26:58,960
I wasn't prepared for it.

630
00:26:58,960 --> 00:27:01,690
I didn't know that they
were burning people.

631
00:27:01,690 --> 00:27:04,870
Nobody knew.

632
00:27:04,870 --> 00:27:06,760
But our orders were to move on.

633
00:27:06,760 --> 00:27:08,350
We were to just keep going.

634
00:27:08,350 --> 00:27:11,800
Because the 3rd Army
tactics, Patton's tactics

635
00:27:11,800 --> 00:27:14,105
was to keep moving fast,
so that the enemy didn't

636
00:27:14,105 --> 00:27:14,980
know you were coming.

637
00:27:14,980 --> 00:27:16,570
Surprise was the main element.

638
00:27:16,570 --> 00:27:18,460

So we just kept going.

639

00:27:18,460 --> 00:27:19,780

Sometimes we rode on the tanks.

640

00:27:19,780 --> 00:27:21,460

Sometimes we rode on trucks.

641

00:27:21,460 --> 00:27:24,010

Most of the time, we didn't
have to walk anymore.

642

00:27:24,010 --> 00:27:26,667

What were the reactions
of the other soldiers

643

00:27:26,667 --> 00:27:27,750

when they saw Flossenburg?

644

00:27:27,750 --> 00:27:28,663

The same as me.

645

00:27:28,663 --> 00:27:29,830

I mean, how can you believe?

646

00:27:29,830 --> 00:27:31,720

You couldn't believe
what you got to see.

647

00:27:31,720 --> 00:27:34,550

Whether you're Jewish or
not, I mean, look, my god,

648

00:27:34,550 --> 00:27:35,900

look what they did.

649

00:27:35,900 --> 00:27:38,140

Pile of shoes over there.

650

00:27:38,140 --> 00:27:41,340

I mean, I don't remember.

651

00:27:41,340 --> 00:27:41,840

You know.

652

00:27:41,840 --> 00:27:43,720

I think my memory got blocked.

653

00:27:43,720 --> 00:27:45,280

You know?

654

00:27:45,280 --> 00:27:48,070

So I mean, everything
the survivors have told

655

00:27:48,070 --> 00:27:50,680

you is true, and even more so.

656

00:27:50,680 --> 00:27:53,230

But this is what we found,
and it was shocking to us

657

00:27:53,230 --> 00:27:54,780

to see this.

658

00:27:54,780 --> 00:27:56,860

Boys from the United
States of America,

659

00:27:56,860 --> 00:28:00,330

who are living in a different
world, all of a sudden coming

660

00:28:00,330 --> 00:28:03,070

and people are being murdered.

661

00:28:03,070 --> 00:28:06,130

Nobody was-- nobody was
prepared for it, I'm sure.

662

00:28:06,130 --> 00:28:11,230

I remember seeing a movie with
Eisenhower when he first--

663

00:28:11,230 --> 00:28:12,857

he couldn't believe it.

664

00:28:12,857 --> 00:28:14,190

I mean, nobody could believe it.

665

00:28:14,190 --> 00:28:16,060

And I'm sure he knew

what was going on.

666

00:28:16,060 --> 00:28:18,240

I don't know what

Roosevelt at the time knew,

667

00:28:18,240 --> 00:28:20,890

but I'm sure he knew

what was going on, too.

668

00:28:20,890 --> 00:28:27,580

But to the ordinary Doughboy

or GI Joe, as we were called,

669

00:28:27,580 --> 00:28:28,540

we didn't expect.

670

00:28:28,540 --> 00:28:29,540

Couldn't.

671

00:28:29,540 --> 00:28:31,200

Who would comprehend it?

672

00:28:31,200 --> 00:28:34,420

It isn't like going to pick up

a copy of The Washington Post

673

00:28:34,420 --> 00:28:37,588

and reading a story about what's

going on in some town today.

674

00:28:37,588 --> 00:28:39,130

You know, there was

no communication.

675
00:28:39,130 --> 00:28:40,990
We didn't know what was
going on in the world.

676
00:28:40,990 --> 00:28:42,100
The world could
have come to an end

677
00:28:42,100 --> 00:28:43,360
as far as we were concerned.

678
00:28:43,360 --> 00:28:46,460
All we know was, we wanted to
get a hot meal once in a while.

679
00:28:46,460 --> 00:28:47,710
We couldn't get any hot meals.

680
00:28:47,710 --> 00:28:50,830
I don't think I had a
hot meal for months.

681
00:28:50,830 --> 00:28:55,090
You know, they couldn't keep up
to us, the kitchens, the food.

682
00:28:55,090 --> 00:28:57,590
But I don't know whether you
want to hear about all of that.

683
00:28:57,590 --> 00:29:00,490
So now you go from
Flossenburg to Pilsen.

684
00:29:00,490 --> 00:29:05,560
Pilsen and then back to
Rosenberg, Sulzbach-Rosenberg.

685
00:29:05,560 --> 00:29:07,150
And what happened there?

686

00:29:07,150 --> 00:29:09,580

Well, I was a tower--

687

00:29:09,580 --> 00:29:14,290

a guard in the tower at a
temporary SS prisoner camp

688

00:29:14,290 --> 00:29:15,790

in Rosenberg.

689

00:29:15,790 --> 00:29:21,070

And I was living in an
office building not quite far

690

00:29:21,070 --> 00:29:21,660

away there.

691

00:29:21,660 --> 00:29:24,290

Were two or three of us in each
office, sleeping on the floors.

692

00:29:24,290 --> 00:29:25,750

I don't know what we were doing.

693

00:29:25,750 --> 00:29:31,270

And then one morning
in August, there

694

00:29:31,270 --> 00:29:34,690

was a bulletin posted that
the following men are being

695

00:29:34,690 --> 00:29:43,270

transferred to the 1st Army--

696

00:29:43,270 --> 00:29:46,960

the 1st Infantry Division
to be out on the front

697

00:29:46,960 --> 00:29:48,850

of the barracks in front of--

698

00:29:48,850 --> 00:29:50,900
at 8:30 in the
morning or whatever.

699
00:29:50,900 --> 00:29:53,380
I didn't know where I was
going, but 12 or 14 of us

700
00:29:53,380 --> 00:29:57,040
got in the back of a two
and a half ton truck.

701
00:29:57,040 --> 00:30:00,640
And we knew we were going East.

702
00:30:00,640 --> 00:30:02,890
You know what direction
you're going in.

703
00:30:02,890 --> 00:30:04,510
We were going East,
and we ended up

704
00:30:04,510 --> 00:30:10,420
in Furth, Germany, which
was a suburb of Nuremberg.

705
00:30:10,420 --> 00:30:12,760
We were dropped off in
front of a building that

706
00:30:12,760 --> 00:30:17,950
said headquarters, A company,
26th Infantry Division--

707
00:30:17,950 --> 00:30:20,740
26th Infantry Regiment,
1st Infantry Division.

708
00:30:20,740 --> 00:30:22,923
And that's it.

709
00:30:22,923 --> 00:30:24,340

We went in there
the next morning.

710
00:30:24,340 --> 00:30:26,850
OK, before we go on to your
experiences at Nuremberg,

711
00:30:26,850 --> 00:30:29,860
I want to backtrack a
little bit to Rosenberg.

712
00:30:29,860 --> 00:30:32,140
Can you describe
the prison to me?

713
00:30:32,140 --> 00:30:35,770
Well, it was just a big camp.

714
00:30:35,770 --> 00:30:38,650
It may have been some
sort of a training camp

715
00:30:38,650 --> 00:30:40,000
for the German army.

716
00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:40,760
I don't know.

717
00:30:40,760 --> 00:30:42,280
But it was nothing--

718
00:30:42,280 --> 00:30:44,290
we were in an office
building, and we just

719
00:30:44,290 --> 00:30:47,360
walked over to this field
where there was barbed wire

720
00:30:47,360 --> 00:30:50,665
and there were towers and we
could watch the prisoners.

721

00:30:50,665 --> 00:31:01,080

722

00:31:01,080 --> 00:31:05,970

This is tape one, side B.

And we were talking about

723

00:31:05,970 --> 00:31:10,710

before you went to Nuremberg,
how you were in Rosenberg.

724

00:31:10,710 --> 00:31:13,080

Now, you were specifically
guarding whom?

725

00:31:13,080 --> 00:31:17,850

SS-- former SS troops of
various kinds, I guess.

726

00:31:17,850 --> 00:31:18,760

Not the Wehrmacht.

727

00:31:18,760 --> 00:31:21,010

There was a difference within
the Wehrmacht, which was

728

00:31:21,010 --> 00:31:23,340

the regular army, and the SS.

729

00:31:23,340 --> 00:31:25,980

And I was-- my
function was just--

730

00:31:25,980 --> 00:31:28,675

my work was just to
sit-in the guard.

731

00:31:28,675 --> 00:31:30,300

I don't remember what
the schedule was.

732

00:31:30,300 --> 00:31:34,590

Sit up on the tower, and
we'd just watch them.

733
00:31:34,590 --> 00:31:37,680
It was right like three
weeks after the war.

734
00:31:37,680 --> 00:31:40,520
When war ended, it was
sort of a fluid situation.

735
00:31:40,520 --> 00:31:42,270
And we were just
guarding these prisoners.

736
00:31:42,270 --> 00:31:44,340
I don't know what they
did with them eventually,

737
00:31:44,340 --> 00:31:47,100
but that's what I was
doing when I got the call,

738
00:31:47,100 --> 00:31:49,230
the orders to go to Nuremberg.

739
00:31:49,230 --> 00:31:51,850
And again, were you
the only Jewish guard?

740
00:31:51,850 --> 00:31:54,090
Yeah, as far as
I know, the only.

741
00:31:54,090 --> 00:31:56,490
I met very few
Jews in my travels,

742
00:31:56,490 --> 00:32:00,630
except for a brief period
while the war was going-- well,

743
00:32:00,630 --> 00:32:04,410

the Bulge was going on
or right after the Bulge.

744
00:32:04,410 --> 00:32:07,860
I was treated for a trench
foot, and the doctor was Jewish.

745
00:32:07,860 --> 00:32:13,160
That was probably
the only contact

746
00:32:13,160 --> 00:32:21,260
I had with Jews from November
of '44 till the war ended.

747
00:32:21,260 --> 00:32:24,470
How did you feel as a
19-year-old Jewish soldier

748
00:32:24,470 --> 00:32:26,940
guarding SS officers?

749
00:32:26,940 --> 00:32:29,870

750
00:32:29,870 --> 00:32:32,450
Well, you get a feeling
of power, obviously.

751
00:32:32,450 --> 00:32:34,360
I mean, you know,
these people are--

752
00:32:34,360 --> 00:32:37,640
you're carrying a
rifle, and they're not.

753
00:32:37,640 --> 00:32:38,570
How did I feel?

754
00:32:38,570 --> 00:32:41,570

755

00:32:41,570 --> 00:32:44,040

The bastards, these are the
guys who killed my friends

756

00:32:44,040 --> 00:32:45,450

when I was in the army.

757

00:32:45,450 --> 00:32:46,710

I mean, how did I feel?

758

00:32:46,710 --> 00:32:47,530

I hated them.

759

00:32:47,530 --> 00:32:51,330

I mean, I'd like to
kill them, but these are

760

00:32:51,330 --> 00:32:52,715

the ones who shot my friends.

761

00:32:52,715 --> 00:32:54,090

Whether they were
friends or not,

762

00:32:54,090 --> 00:32:55,920

but they shot American soldiers.

763

00:32:55,920 --> 00:32:57,840

I mean, they were the enemy.

764

00:32:57,840 --> 00:32:59,500

Period.

765

00:32:59,500 --> 00:33:01,890

So that's how I-- you know,
but what are you going to do?

766

00:33:01,890 --> 00:33:05,760

I mean, the war was over,
and we're feeding them now.

767

00:33:05,760 --> 00:33:08,550

768

00:33:08,550 --> 00:33:10,500

And again, you said you
did not speak German,

769

00:33:10,500 --> 00:33:11,990

so you didn't have any--

770

00:33:11,990 --> 00:33:15,270

Yeah, it was hard.

771

00:33:15,270 --> 00:33:18,570

You know, Yiddish is
sort of a broken German.

772

00:33:18,570 --> 00:33:20,940

So I was able to--

773

00:33:20,940 --> 00:33:21,750

I was able to talk.

774

00:33:21,750 --> 00:33:24,600

775

00:33:24,600 --> 00:33:25,650

I think I had a--

776

00:33:25,650 --> 00:33:30,180

I met a German
nurse in Rosenberg.

777

00:33:30,180 --> 00:33:33,060

And I tried to talk
to her, find out what

778

00:33:33,060 --> 00:33:34,740

went on here during the war.

779

00:33:34,740 --> 00:33:36,760

Rosenberg was a backwater town.

780
00:33:36,760 --> 00:33:39,800
It was not a metropolitan area.

781
00:33:39,800 --> 00:33:42,510
And she was sort of
a farmer's daughter.

782
00:33:42,510 --> 00:33:44,340
She was a farmer's daughter.

783
00:33:44,340 --> 00:33:49,195
And I think I went to her
house a couple of times.

784
00:33:49,195 --> 00:33:51,120
And her father used
to beg me to get him

785
00:33:51,120 --> 00:33:53,990
beer, because he
couldn't get any.

786
00:33:53,990 --> 00:33:56,070
And chocolates and cigarettes.

787
00:33:56,070 --> 00:33:58,170
You know, the usual thing
that you've heard about.

788
00:33:58,170 --> 00:34:00,600
That went on, but
not much for me,

789
00:34:00,600 --> 00:34:03,510
because I was not in a
position to get chocolates.

790
00:34:03,510 --> 00:34:08,130
And I think I saw the
Red Cross once or twice

791

00:34:08,130 --> 00:34:10,650
with donuts and coffee.

792
00:34:10,650 --> 00:34:13,739
Most of what-- when
you're in the infantry,

793
00:34:13,739 --> 00:34:15,900
you're out away from everybody.

794
00:34:15,900 --> 00:34:18,960
Nobody want--
you're like a leper.

795
00:34:18,960 --> 00:34:21,730
Because where you are,
you can get killed.

796
00:34:21,730 --> 00:34:25,270
Where they are, they
don't get killed.

797
00:34:25,270 --> 00:34:28,238
So nobody-- nobody
came to see us.

798
00:34:28,238 --> 00:34:29,280
We didn't get any visits.

799
00:34:29,280 --> 00:34:31,530
You know, it was just,
you're out there.

800
00:34:31,530 --> 00:34:33,780
How long were you in Rosenberg?

801
00:34:33,780 --> 00:34:37,780
I'd say I was there
about six weeks.

802
00:34:37,780 --> 00:34:39,000
About six weeks.

803

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:40,170

And I hung around.

804

00:34:40,170 --> 00:34:44,320

Not a very interesting place.

805

00:34:44,320 --> 00:34:49,330

It's like visiting someplace
in the Virginia Blue Ridge

806

00:34:49,330 --> 00:34:50,199

Mountains.

807

00:34:50,199 --> 00:34:52,449

Had you heard
more, anything more

808

00:34:52,449 --> 00:34:54,372

about what happened to the Jews?

809

00:34:54,372 --> 00:34:56,080

No, but I used to ask
questions about it.

810

00:34:56,080 --> 00:34:59,180

I mean, anybody I saw, I said,
what the hell's going on?

811

00:34:59,180 --> 00:35:02,260

I mean, where were these camps
that they talk about outside?

812

00:35:02,260 --> 00:35:04,390

I only saw Flossenburg,
but where are the others?

813

00:35:04,390 --> 00:35:07,720

Well, they're on the other
side now of the so-called Iron

814

00:35:07,720 --> 00:35:09,010

Curtain.

815
00:35:09,010 --> 00:35:12,010
We're not allowed
to go over there.

816
00:35:12,010 --> 00:35:14,950
Most of them, I think,
were in the British sector.

817
00:35:14,950 --> 00:35:19,120
So I think the English
liberated most of them.

818
00:35:19,120 --> 00:35:22,810
The US Army was
basically south of there.

819
00:35:22,810 --> 00:35:25,755
And so I really didn't know.

820
00:35:25,755 --> 00:35:27,130
You'd read something
in the Stars

821
00:35:27,130 --> 00:35:30,490
& Stripes, maybe, which
is the Army paper,

822
00:35:30,490 --> 00:35:32,590
but there were no newspapers.

823
00:35:32,590 --> 00:35:35,230
I mean, the German
press wasn't--

824
00:35:35,230 --> 00:35:37,300
See, this is what
I never understood,

825
00:35:37,300 --> 00:35:39,730
because I didn't understand.

826

00:35:39,730 --> 00:35:44,110
The American media, there
was no television, obviously.

827
00:35:44,110 --> 00:35:45,820
But the American
media didn't really

828
00:35:45,820 --> 00:35:49,660
cover the war, in my opinion,
or cover what was going on.

829
00:35:49,660 --> 00:35:51,340
You didn't read about it.

830
00:35:51,340 --> 00:35:55,210
I mean, today if
somebody kicks somebody

831
00:35:55,210 --> 00:35:57,430
and says "you're a
Goddamn Jew," there's

832
00:35:57,430 --> 00:35:59,510
a story in the
newspaper about it.

833
00:35:59,510 --> 00:36:01,330
But no, you didn't
hear anything about it.

834
00:36:01,330 --> 00:36:02,950
Millions of people
are getting killed,

835
00:36:02,950 --> 00:36:04,480
and the press
isn't reporting it.

836
00:36:04,480 --> 00:36:06,460
Why?

837
00:36:06,460 --> 00:36:08,370

I never could understand that.

838

00:36:08,370 --> 00:36:12,040

It's an unanswered question
to this day, what happened

839

00:36:12,040 --> 00:36:15,280

to the media who should have--

840

00:36:15,280 --> 00:36:19,180

and our State Department, and
all the government function,

841

00:36:19,180 --> 00:36:21,050

I mean, they had to
know what was going on.

842

00:36:21,050 --> 00:36:23,700

Let me tell you,
they had to know.

843

00:36:23,700 --> 00:36:26,650

And they could have stopped
the concentration camps

844

00:36:26,650 --> 00:36:29,680

from operating even while
the war was on by bombing

845

00:36:29,680 --> 00:36:31,810

the rail lines
that went in there.

846

00:36:31,810 --> 00:36:35,320

I mean, they couldn't
function on their own, either.

847

00:36:35,320 --> 00:36:37,818

But most of these camps,
from what I understand,

848

00:36:37,818 --> 00:36:38,860

I didn't see all of them.

849
00:36:38,860 --> 00:36:41,050
Flossenburg was still
operating when we got there.

850
00:36:41,050 --> 00:36:42,640
And I would assume
some of the others.

851
00:36:42,640 --> 00:36:47,170
They could have
stopped it by bombing.

852
00:36:47,170 --> 00:36:49,960
Sure, they would've killed a
few Jews, killed a few people,

853
00:36:49,960 --> 00:36:51,280
but they would have stopped--

854
00:36:51,280 --> 00:36:53,380
the operation would
have been crippled.

855
00:36:53,380 --> 00:36:57,220
Like they stopped building
submarines or anything else.

856
00:36:57,220 --> 00:36:58,900
They could have stopped it.

857
00:36:58,900 --> 00:37:05,020
From February to
the end of the war,

858
00:37:05,020 --> 00:37:06,460
you never saw a German plane.

859
00:37:06,460 --> 00:37:08,480
Very seldom.

860
00:37:08,480 --> 00:37:11,020

The Germany Air Force was gone.

861

00:37:11,020 --> 00:37:13,690

And all you saw was American
planes up there, all the time.

862

00:37:13,690 --> 00:37:15,400

And they were going
some way to bomb.

863

00:37:15,400 --> 00:37:18,370

Why didn't they bomb them?

864

00:37:18,370 --> 00:37:20,420

Good question.

865

00:37:20,420 --> 00:37:22,690

I can't answer it.

866

00:37:22,690 --> 00:37:25,795

Now, you are in Nuremberg,
and this is August of '45.

867

00:37:25,795 --> 00:37:29,483

August of '44-- '40--
yeah, August '45.

868

00:37:29,483 --> 00:37:31,400

They dropped us off in
front of this building.

869

00:37:31,400 --> 00:37:35,500

And we were greeted
by American Army,

870

00:37:35,500 --> 00:37:39,130

who gave us a briefing on what
our function was going to be.

871

00:37:39,130 --> 00:37:43,000

We were going to become members
of the international military

872

00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:49,970

tribunal, which was at the
jailhouse in Nuremberg.

873

00:37:49,970 --> 00:37:50,470

Or Furth.

874

00:37:50,470 --> 00:37:51,520

I'm not sure.

875

00:37:51,520 --> 00:37:53,445

There's I think a border there.

876

00:37:53,445 --> 00:37:54,820

Sometimes they
said it was Furth.

877

00:37:54,820 --> 00:37:56,520

Sometimes they said
it was Nuremberg.

878

00:37:56,520 --> 00:38:00,190

And this colonel
told us that we would

879

00:38:00,190 --> 00:38:04,180

be guarding the prisoners
on a one-to-one basis

880

00:38:04,180 --> 00:38:05,560

at the beginning.

881

00:38:05,560 --> 00:38:07,360

And it was a good
deal, because we only

882

00:38:07,360 --> 00:38:10,020

had to work six hours
out of every 30.

883

00:38:10,020 --> 00:38:13,960

In other words, we get 24

hours off between each.

884
00:38:13,960 --> 00:38:16,510
And that was the usual
briefing of an army officer

885
00:38:16,510 --> 00:38:18,460
to enlisted men.

886
00:38:18,460 --> 00:38:21,070
And this was a bombed
out apartment house.

887
00:38:21,070 --> 00:38:22,690
There was no heat.

888
00:38:22,690 --> 00:38:27,534
We fixed it up a little bit,
so we could live in there.

889
00:38:27,534 --> 00:38:30,110
And it was the
headquarters, as I say,

890
00:38:30,110 --> 00:38:32,860
of the 1st Infantry
Division, A Company.

891
00:38:32,860 --> 00:38:35,740

892
00:38:35,740 --> 00:38:39,070
And every division
has three regiments.

893
00:38:39,070 --> 00:38:43,240
This was one regiment,
and this was A Company.

894
00:38:43,240 --> 00:38:46,480
And they were the
responsible for the guard

895

00:38:46,480 --> 00:38:48,490
detail at the jail.

896

00:38:48,490 --> 00:38:51,730
They were the mechanism,
the institution

897

00:38:51,730 --> 00:38:54,730
to run the guard detail.

898

00:38:54,730 --> 00:38:56,380
The jail was in
another building?

899

00:38:56,380 --> 00:38:57,170
Oh, yeah.

900

00:38:57,170 --> 00:38:59,180
The jail, we had to go by truck.

901

00:38:59,180 --> 00:39:00,370
They had to drive us there.

902

00:39:00,370 --> 00:39:01,828
And I remember, it
wasn't very far.

903

00:39:01,828 --> 00:39:04,990
It was a five ride.

904

00:39:04,990 --> 00:39:11,020
So the first time I went
on duty at the jailhouse

905

00:39:11,020 --> 00:39:12,890
was the midnight shift.

906

00:39:12,890 --> 00:39:15,490
Who did they tell you
these prisoners were?

907

00:39:15,490 --> 00:39:17,530
The major war criminals.

908
00:39:17,530 --> 00:39:20,320
All the major war criminals
were in one cell block

909
00:39:20,320 --> 00:39:24,070
in this old, broken down
jail house in Nuremberg.

910
00:39:24,070 --> 00:39:26,040
Had you heard of
these people before?

911
00:39:26,040 --> 00:39:27,010
I heard the names.

912
00:39:27,010 --> 00:39:28,060
I mean, the names, yeah.

913
00:39:28,060 --> 00:39:29,830
Of course, yeah,
I heard the names.

914
00:39:29,830 --> 00:39:32,680
I mean, growing up
in the Depression,

915
00:39:32,680 --> 00:39:34,180
I mean, you heard
of Von Ribbentrop.

916
00:39:34,180 --> 00:39:35,950
You heard of Von Papen.

917
00:39:35,950 --> 00:39:38,310
You heard of all
these people who

918
00:39:38,310 --> 00:39:41,320
were in the news-- those
names were in the newspaper.

919
00:39:41,320 --> 00:39:44,220
But I didn't know
what they had done.

920
00:39:44,220 --> 00:39:46,850
I mean, I didn't know what--

921
00:39:46,850 --> 00:39:50,580
anyway, but we were
told that the 23 or 22--

922
00:39:50,580 --> 00:39:52,030
I'm not sure what
the number is--

923
00:39:52,030 --> 00:39:54,530
were the major war criminals
were in one cell block,

924
00:39:54,530 --> 00:39:57,350
and that was going
to be our function,

925
00:39:57,350 --> 00:40:00,310
to be in that
particular guard detail.

926
00:40:00,310 --> 00:40:04,040
And in that group--

927
00:40:04,040 --> 00:40:06,440
there were other floors
in that jailhouse,

928
00:40:06,440 --> 00:40:09,140
but they were all on one floor.

929
00:40:09,140 --> 00:40:10,990
And up above, I
know the woman that

930

00:40:10,990 --> 00:40:15,122
did the lampshades with skin.

931
00:40:15,122 --> 00:40:15,830
She was up there.

932
00:40:15,830 --> 00:40:17,720
Olga or Inga or
something like that.

933
00:40:17,720 --> 00:40:20,410
She was up above.

934
00:40:20,410 --> 00:40:21,100
And others.

935
00:40:21,100 --> 00:40:24,350
And in another section
were the military prisoners

936
00:40:24,350 --> 00:40:26,975
like General Keitel and Jodl.

937
00:40:26,975 --> 00:40:29,438

938
00:40:29,438 --> 00:40:30,980
I don't know how
they differentiated,

939
00:40:30,980 --> 00:40:33,350
but the 23 major
ones, the ones you

940
00:40:33,350 --> 00:40:36,520
see in the movies of
the trial at Nuremberg,

941
00:40:36,520 --> 00:40:39,750
the 23 were in that cell block.

942
00:40:39,750 --> 00:40:41,210

And so we arrived there.

943
00:40:41,210 --> 00:40:42,920
I arrived there one night.

944
00:40:42,920 --> 00:40:47,040
And it was a long corridor,
and it was of course dark.

945
00:40:47,040 --> 00:40:49,730
And it was a long corridor,
and all I could see

946
00:40:49,730 --> 00:40:53,120
was the backs of guys looking
in the windows of cells

947
00:40:53,120 --> 00:40:55,070
as we walked down the
corridor, and then

948
00:40:55,070 --> 00:40:56,960
ended up relieving this guy.

949
00:40:56,960 --> 00:40:58,086
He got up.

950
00:40:58,086 --> 00:41:01,130
And the week before--

951
00:41:01,130 --> 00:41:03,410
I'm not sure of the time--
about five days before,

952
00:41:03,410 --> 00:41:06,860
whatever, Dr. Ley, L-E-Y,
the labor minister,

953
00:41:06,860 --> 00:41:10,100
had hung himself in the
jail, in this cell block.

954

00:41:10,100 --> 00:41:14,390
There was a toilet and a pipe
that ran up through the wall,

955
00:41:14,390 --> 00:41:16,760
and he actually
strangled himself.

956
00:41:16,760 --> 00:41:19,530
So now the American
Army said every prison

957
00:41:19,530 --> 00:41:22,280
has got to be watched on
a continuous basis, which

958
00:41:22,280 --> 00:41:23,810
meant 24 hours a day.

959
00:41:23,810 --> 00:41:27,710
So they put a guard
on every door at night

960
00:41:27,710 --> 00:41:28,880
and watch them sleep, even.

961
00:41:28,880 --> 00:41:30,470
We would watch them
sleep, basically.

962
00:41:30,470 --> 00:41:32,540
So this was a solid
door with a window.

963
00:41:32,540 --> 00:41:35,600
With a little-- yeah,
with iron bars in it.

964
00:41:35,600 --> 00:41:38,180
And they had a light, like
the old fashioned green lights

965
00:41:38,180 --> 00:41:40,220

you see from the
old gambling casino.

966
00:41:40,220 --> 00:41:43,520
They had one of those
turned in, so the room

967
00:41:43,520 --> 00:41:46,520
was lit up all the
time by that light.

968
00:41:46,520 --> 00:41:47,870
And you had to stand there.

969
00:41:47,870 --> 00:41:49,745
It was kind of boring,
to be honest with you,

970
00:41:49,745 --> 00:41:51,860
watching a guy sleep all night.

971
00:41:51,860 --> 00:41:53,470
But six hours, and you were out.

972
00:41:53,470 --> 00:41:56,660
So that was my first night.

973
00:41:56,660 --> 00:41:58,310
How did you know who
these people were?

974
00:41:58,310 --> 00:41:59,530
Were there labels?

975
00:41:59,530 --> 00:42:00,030
Oh, yeah.

976
00:42:00,030 --> 00:42:02,030
I'm sorry I missed this.

977
00:42:02,030 --> 00:42:04,760
In walking down this

corridor, on every door

978

00:42:04,760 --> 00:42:12,830

was a white sign that said
"Hess, Von Ribbentrop, Von

979

00:42:12,830 --> 00:42:16,970

Papen, Streicher, Goring."

980

00:42:16,970 --> 00:42:18,200

I mean, this was--

981

00:42:18,200 --> 00:42:19,970

I mean, to me, I
mean, I couldn't

982

00:42:19,970 --> 00:42:21,200

believe what I was seeing.

983

00:42:21,200 --> 00:42:23,000

I couldn't believe it.

984

00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:25,300

These are the people
that ran Germany.

985

00:42:25,300 --> 00:42:28,190

I mean, it was this
going into a jail

986

00:42:28,190 --> 00:42:32,000

and seeing the Congress of the
United States in a cell block,

987

00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:33,620

or the cabinet.

988

00:42:33,620 --> 00:42:36,050

You know, the
secretary of state,

989

00:42:36,050 --> 00:42:38,600

the secretary of commerce,
the secretary of everything

990
00:42:38,600 --> 00:42:39,860
in one cell block.

991
00:42:39,860 --> 00:42:41,720
I couldn't believe
what I was seeing.

992
00:42:41,720 --> 00:42:42,630
Couldn't believe it.

993
00:42:42,630 --> 00:42:44,480
I mean, it was beyond me.

994
00:42:44,480 --> 00:42:46,280
Don't forget, I'm only--

995
00:42:46,280 --> 00:42:50,320
at that point I was
18 and 3 months.

996
00:42:50,320 --> 00:42:51,160
19.

997
00:42:51,160 --> 00:42:51,850
It's 1945.

998
00:42:51,850 --> 00:42:52,970
19 and three months.

999
00:42:52,970 --> 00:42:55,770
It was hard for--

1000
00:42:55,770 --> 00:42:59,730
yeah, hard for me to
believe what I was seeing.

1001
00:42:59,730 --> 00:43:02,610
It was overwhelming.

1002

00:43:02,610 --> 00:43:05,730

And days after that,
some of the press

1003

00:43:05,730 --> 00:43:08,850

would try to find out what's
going on in the jailhouse,

1004

00:43:08,850 --> 00:43:09,660

because we knew.

1005

00:43:09,660 --> 00:43:11,490

Because we were with them.

1006

00:43:11,490 --> 00:43:12,800

I'll have to explain to you.

1007

00:43:12,800 --> 00:43:15,030

When you were on
a different shift,

1008

00:43:15,030 --> 00:43:17,400

like if you were in
the morning shift,

1009

00:43:17,400 --> 00:43:19,800

you would take them out for
a walk or watch them walk,

1010

00:43:19,800 --> 00:43:21,930

and there was a little
courtyard on the side

1011

00:43:21,930 --> 00:43:23,400

of the cell-- of the jail.

1012

00:43:23,400 --> 00:43:26,370

So they'd take them out there
and let them walk around.

1013

00:43:26,370 --> 00:43:33,390

Then if one of their attorney

or the government's attorneys

1014

00:43:33,390 --> 00:43:37,330
or whatever wanted to interview
them before the trial--

1015

00:43:37,330 --> 00:43:39,540
this was all before the trial--

1016

00:43:39,540 --> 00:43:42,570
we'd have to bring them
over to the courthouse

1017

00:43:42,570 --> 00:43:45,750
from the jail, which
was on the same grounds.

1018

00:43:45,750 --> 00:43:48,540
But nobody knew what was
going on except the prisoners

1019

00:43:48,540 --> 00:43:49,490
and the guards.

1020

00:43:49,490 --> 00:43:52,830
So the guards were popular with
the press then to find out,

1021

00:43:52,830 --> 00:43:56,190
you got a scoop for me, you
got a story, you got this?

1022

00:43:56,190 --> 00:44:01,170
I tried not-- we were told
to stay away from the press.

1023

00:44:01,170 --> 00:44:06,210
You know this is an American
institution of justice,

1024

00:44:06,210 --> 00:44:10,320
and these people came
up again in the sense

1025
00:44:10,320 --> 00:44:16,080
that one night, one of us--

1026
00:44:16,080 --> 00:44:21,300
I think I was party to it--
put thumbtacks on our boots.

1027
00:44:21,300 --> 00:44:24,990
And I, in an iron
grate situation,

1028
00:44:24,990 --> 00:44:27,330
you can imagine what
it sounded like.

1029
00:44:27,330 --> 00:44:31,620
And the next morning, we
got a Colonel Andrus--

1030
00:44:31,620 --> 00:44:34,890
I remember his
name A-N-D-R-U-S--

1031
00:44:34,890 --> 00:44:36,570
called us all in
and said listen,

1032
00:44:36,570 --> 00:44:40,530
these people are-- he
didn't do it in a nice way.

1033
00:44:40,530 --> 00:44:42,610
These people are not prisoners.

1034
00:44:42,610 --> 00:44:45,270
They have not been
convicted of anything.

1035
00:44:45,270 --> 00:44:49,050
They're detainees in the charge,
custody of the United States

1036

00:44:49,050 --> 00:44:50,850

Army.

1037

00:44:50,850 --> 00:44:53,100

Their defense counsel said,
you kept them up all night

1038

00:44:53,100 --> 00:44:54,450

last night.

1039

00:44:54,450 --> 00:44:57,630

And if you do it again, you're
all going to go to the jail--

1040

00:44:57,630 --> 00:45:00,220

to the the guard
house yourselves.

1041

00:45:00,220 --> 00:45:03,490

So that was an
interesting little tour.

1042

00:45:03,490 --> 00:45:06,390

So you put thumbtacks and just
marched, walked back and forth

1043

00:45:06,390 --> 00:45:07,170

to make noise?

1044

00:45:07,170 --> 00:45:08,420

Walk on iron with a thumbtack.

1045

00:45:08,420 --> 00:45:11,020

You can imagine what
the noise will be.

1046

00:45:11,020 --> 00:45:13,020

It was in-- yeah, we did
keep them up all night.

1047

00:45:13,020 --> 00:45:13,728

There's no doubt.

1048
00:45:13,728 --> 00:45:15,240
Whose idea was it?

1049
00:45:15,240 --> 00:45:18,110
Well, I may have
been part of it.

1050
00:45:18,110 --> 00:45:20,760
But I was a mischievous
guy, I guess.

1051
00:45:20,760 --> 00:45:23,370
But it was-- but
it wasn't allowed.

1052
00:45:23,370 --> 00:45:26,730
You know, in this country, we
have a great code of justice.

1053
00:45:26,730 --> 00:45:28,500
You know.

1054
00:45:28,500 --> 00:45:30,450
And they weren't proud of it.

1055
00:45:30,450 --> 00:45:32,820
This Andrus was a
regular army guy.

1056
00:45:32,820 --> 00:45:36,720
I remember him
stiff, redneck guy.

1057
00:45:36,720 --> 00:45:40,950
Regular army who
was what they call--

1058
00:45:40,950 --> 00:45:42,547
read the book.

1059
00:45:42,547 --> 00:45:44,130

Whatever he was
supposed to do, that's

1060
00:45:44,130 --> 00:45:46,890
the way he did it,
according to the book.

1061
00:45:46,890 --> 00:45:48,840
Now, the Nuremberg
trials were originally

1062
00:45:48,840 --> 00:45:52,470
supposed to be held in Berlin,
and I know they began there,

1063
00:45:52,470 --> 00:45:56,160
but then they did bring
them later on to Nuremberg.

1064
00:45:56,160 --> 00:45:59,070
But the prisoners were
there in Nuremberg.

1065
00:45:59,070 --> 00:46:03,150
They were brought there
in July or August of 1945,

1066
00:46:03,150 --> 00:46:05,880
and assembled them all
in that one building.

1067
00:46:05,880 --> 00:46:07,740
Nuremberg itself
had been destroyed.

1068
00:46:07,740 --> 00:46:10,080
There was very little
left of Nuremberg.

1069
00:46:10,080 --> 00:46:12,100
And most of it was rubble.

1070
00:46:12,100 --> 00:46:13,810

You know, all over the place.

1071
00:46:13,810 --> 00:46:20,280
But the guard house,
the jail itself

1072
00:46:20,280 --> 00:46:23,130
was sort of isolated
away from the courthouse.

1073
00:46:23,130 --> 00:46:25,270
And it was isolated away
from everybody else.

1074
00:46:25,270 --> 00:46:27,870
And maybe that's why
they wanted it that way.

1075
00:46:27,870 --> 00:46:35,280
There were few houses where
Justice Jackson, people

1076
00:46:35,280 --> 00:46:37,140
like that lived while
they were there.

1077
00:46:37,140 --> 00:46:40,470
And then there was the French,
Russian, and English delegation

1078
00:46:40,470 --> 00:46:41,580
to the trials.

1079
00:46:41,580 --> 00:46:45,890
They were living
in houses around.

1080
00:46:45,890 --> 00:46:50,490
And matter of fact, there
were very few bathrooms

1081
00:46:50,490 --> 00:46:52,830
with bathtubs.

1082
00:46:52,830 --> 00:46:56,550
So when we were
off duty, we knew

1083
00:46:56,550 --> 00:46:59,100
that these officers
or these officials

1084
00:46:59,100 --> 00:47:01,530
were at the courthouse,
we'd try to sneak in and use

1085
00:47:01,530 --> 00:47:03,490
their bathtub.

1086
00:47:03,490 --> 00:47:06,060
I mean, that was just a little--

1087
00:47:06,060 --> 00:47:09,130
I don't think I had
a bath in months.

1088
00:47:09,130 --> 00:47:15,090
So anyway, that was what
we found when I got there.

1089
00:47:15,090 --> 00:47:17,850
And so your first
person that you guarded?

1090
00:47:17,850 --> 00:47:20,420
I don't remember who was
the first one that night.

1091
00:47:20,420 --> 00:47:24,720
It may have been Streicher.

1092
00:47:24,720 --> 00:47:27,440
Because I have a vivid
memory of this guy.

1093

00:47:27,440 --> 00:47:30,420
This Streicher was probably
the biggest bastard

1094
00:47:30,420 --> 00:47:31,710
that I've ever--

1095
00:47:31,710 --> 00:47:33,255
I mean, just look at him.

1096
00:47:33,255 --> 00:47:39,340
Streicher was-- I think his
whole being was hating Jews.

1097
00:47:39,340 --> 00:47:40,300
Just hate Jews.

1098
00:47:40,300 --> 00:47:43,776
That was his whole
life-- hate Jews.

1099
00:47:43,776 --> 00:47:45,030
He was a--

1100
00:47:45,030 --> 00:47:47,550
I don't want to use swear words.

1101
00:47:47,550 --> 00:47:48,840
But anywhere, he was a--

1102
00:47:48,840 --> 00:47:50,170
How did you know that?

1103
00:47:50,170 --> 00:47:51,900
Or did you know
that at the time?

1104
00:47:51,900 --> 00:47:53,070
Somebody told me about him.

1105
00:47:53,070 --> 00:47:54,690
I said, who is this

guy, Streicher?

1106
00:47:54,690 --> 00:47:57,565
You know, somebody, I don't
remember who, he's the guy--

1107
00:47:57,565 --> 00:47:59,190
and I was told that
he was the guy that

1108
00:47:59,190 --> 00:48:02,640
wrote all the articles
for a newspaper

1109
00:48:02,640 --> 00:48:04,530
in Munich or someplace.

1110
00:48:04,530 --> 00:48:07,200
And but then I tried
to talk to him.

1111
00:48:07,200 --> 00:48:09,770
Now, he didn't speak
too much English.

1112
00:48:09,770 --> 00:48:11,370
Streicher didn't.

1113
00:48:11,370 --> 00:48:14,970
And the other prisoners
would tell you

1114
00:48:14,970 --> 00:48:18,240
stories about their
colleagues, so to speak.

1115
00:48:18,240 --> 00:48:20,740
That's how you heard
a lot of things.

1116
00:48:20,740 --> 00:48:24,210
For instance, Von Ribbentrop
was a charming guy,

1117
00:48:24,210 --> 00:48:27,000
spoke with a little
English accent.

1118
00:48:27,000 --> 00:48:28,260
And he was always asking.

1119
00:48:28,260 --> 00:48:29,802
And I remembered
the other night when

1120
00:48:29,802 --> 00:48:33,000
I was reminded of that
interview, he was always

1121
00:48:33,000 --> 00:48:36,450
asking, what should
I say in my defense--

1122
00:48:36,450 --> 00:48:37,410
He was asking whom?

1123
00:48:37,410 --> 00:48:39,600
Me, and everybody else.

1124
00:48:39,600 --> 00:48:40,650
I think he had a habit.

1125
00:48:40,650 --> 00:48:43,130
He'd say, what do you
think how I should react--

1126
00:48:43,130 --> 00:48:45,570
when like I'd say, I was taking
him over for interrogation

1127
00:48:45,570 --> 00:48:47,040
to the jailhouse.

1128
00:48:47,040 --> 00:48:48,420
So he would ask--

1129
00:48:48,420 --> 00:48:50,722
because he spoke English
flawlessly, you know.

1130
00:48:50,722 --> 00:48:51,930
And how would you answer him?

1131
00:48:51,930 --> 00:48:54,750

1132
00:48:54,750 --> 00:48:57,140
Why are you asking me?

1133
00:48:57,140 --> 00:48:59,390
I mean, I'd say, what do I know?

1134
00:48:59,390 --> 00:49:03,097
These are the American judges,
English judges, French judges.

1135
00:49:03,097 --> 00:49:04,680
I says, I don't know
what to tell you.

1136
00:49:04,680 --> 00:49:06,410
Why don't you talk
to your attorney?

1137
00:49:06,410 --> 00:49:08,000
I mean, what do I know?

1138
00:49:08,000 --> 00:49:12,150
I'm an 18-year-old,
19-year-old kid.

1139
00:49:12,150 --> 00:49:14,930
But he was charming,
that Von Ribbentrop.

1140
00:49:14,930 --> 00:49:16,370
Von Papen-- but they all--

1141
00:49:16,370 --> 00:49:17,630
Did they know you were Jewish?

1142
00:49:17,630 --> 00:49:18,130
Oh, yeah.

1143
00:49:18,130 --> 00:49:19,020
I made that clear.

1144
00:49:19,020 --> 00:49:19,940
Oh, I'm sorry.

1145
00:49:19,940 --> 00:49:22,440
I'm running ahead of myself.

1146
00:49:22,440 --> 00:49:26,900
The first day-- the first
night Streicher was sleeping,

1147
00:49:26,900 --> 00:49:28,350
so I didn't really talk to him.

1148
00:49:28,350 --> 00:49:31,420
But the next time I had
Streicher or Von Ribbentrop,

1149
00:49:31,420 --> 00:49:34,505
or Von Papen, the first thing
I would say, "Ich bin a Juden,

1150
00:49:34,505 --> 00:49:35,630
you son of a bitch bastard.

1151
00:49:35,630 --> 00:49:38,170

1152
00:49:38,170 --> 00:49:40,815
You killed my family."

1153
00:49:40,815 --> 00:49:42,940

Whether they understood
it-- because Von Ribbentrop

1154
00:49:42,940 --> 00:49:44,860
understood, and I think
Von Papen understood,

1155
00:49:44,860 --> 00:49:46,690
because he spoke English.

1156
00:49:46,690 --> 00:49:50,260
But I made it very clear
that I was the only Jew

1157
00:49:50,260 --> 00:49:52,270
in this detail, and I hate you.

1158
00:49:52,270 --> 00:49:54,930
I'd kill you if I could.

1159
00:49:54,930 --> 00:49:55,470
I'm serious.

1160
00:49:55,470 --> 00:49:56,220
And I was serious.

1161
00:49:56,220 --> 00:49:57,880
I'd shoot the bastards.

1162
00:49:57,880 --> 00:49:59,593
But I couldn't.

1163
00:49:59,593 --> 00:50:01,510
How did the-- the ones
who understand English,

1164
00:50:01,510 --> 00:50:02,450
how did they respond?

1165
00:50:02,450 --> 00:50:04,960
They just looked at
me with a blank face.

1166
00:50:04,960 --> 00:50:07,210
You've got to remember,
they're now in prison.

1167
00:50:07,210 --> 00:50:09,800
All these guys that had
all these great power

1168
00:50:09,800 --> 00:50:10,770
are now in prison.

1169
00:50:10,770 --> 00:50:14,120
And somebody is giving them
a tin plate with food on it.

1170
00:50:14,120 --> 00:50:18,050
They were all sullen,
or they were detached.

1171
00:50:18,050 --> 00:50:20,680
And all of them said that
they did it because of Hitler.

1172
00:50:20,680 --> 00:50:22,330
Hitler told us to do it.

1173
00:50:22,330 --> 00:50:23,770
What did we know?

1174
00:50:23,770 --> 00:50:27,220
I mean, Frank, the Butcher
of Warsaw, was there.

1175
00:50:27,220 --> 00:50:29,020
What do you mean?

1176
00:50:29,020 --> 00:50:30,130
"We were ordered to do it.

1177
00:50:30,130 --> 00:50:33,290
This was part of

the government."

1178
00:50:33,290 --> 00:50:35,350
And that's part of the
German mentality, too,

1179
00:50:35,350 --> 00:50:39,130
to take orders and do.

1180
00:50:39,130 --> 00:50:41,110
So I let everybody
know I was Jewish.

1181
00:50:41,110 --> 00:50:44,780
I mean, I made no
bones about it.

1182
00:50:44,780 --> 00:50:47,380
But they didn't-- they
didn't react too much.

1183
00:50:47,380 --> 00:50:48,460
They just looked at me.

1184
00:50:48,460 --> 00:50:51,210

1185
00:50:51,210 --> 00:50:56,280
Did the other American
soldiers with you

1186
00:50:56,280 --> 00:50:58,070
acknowledge the fact
that you were Jewish?

1187
00:50:58,070 --> 00:51:00,150
Yeah, I mean, they
all knew I was Jewish.

1188
00:51:00,150 --> 00:51:02,820
I mean, everybody-- the typical
American youth, a lot of them

1189

00:51:02,820 --> 00:51:04,620

went around looking
for interviews

1190

00:51:04,620 --> 00:51:06,690

themselves or autographs.

1191

00:51:06,690 --> 00:51:09,790

A lot of the guys in my
detail got autographs.

1192

00:51:09,790 --> 00:51:11,040

From the prisoners?

1193

00:51:11,040 --> 00:51:11,730

Oh, sure.

1194

00:51:11,730 --> 00:51:13,350

I didn't.

1195

00:51:13,350 --> 00:51:16,470

I didn't want anything to
do with them, the bastards.

1196

00:51:16,470 --> 00:51:17,700

But a lot of them went.

1197

00:51:17,700 --> 00:51:20,200

Because one night, we were back
in the barracks or whatever,

1198

00:51:20,200 --> 00:51:24,810

and one of the guys said, did
you get Goring's signature?

1199

00:51:24,810 --> 00:51:26,240

Did you get his autograph?

1200

00:51:26,240 --> 00:51:29,240

1201

00:51:29,240 --> 00:51:33,690

There was an interesting
side story to that.

1202

00:51:33,690 --> 00:51:34,470

But I didn't.

1203

00:51:34,470 --> 00:51:36,720

I just didn't--

1204

00:51:36,720 --> 00:51:40,800

I didn't see the value of having
the autograph of a murderer.

1205

00:51:40,800 --> 00:51:43,890

And that was-- it was probably
a mistake, because I'm

1206

00:51:43,890 --> 00:51:45,840

sure it would be worth
a lot of money today

1207

00:51:45,840 --> 00:51:49,810

if I had 23 autographs, OK?

1208

00:51:49,810 --> 00:51:52,410

Let's talk now about some
of these specific prisoners

1209

00:51:52,410 --> 00:51:55,590

and what your recollections are.

1210

00:51:55,590 --> 00:52:00,780

Well, first of all, I told
you, they all blamed Hitler.

1211

00:52:00,780 --> 00:52:01,710

Schacht was sort of--

1212

00:52:01,710 --> 00:52:06,840

I remember he was
tall, very gray haired,

1213

00:52:06,840 --> 00:52:08,250
and he was a banker.

1214

00:52:08,250 --> 00:52:11,120
So I don't know much
about his role in the--

1215

00:52:11,120 --> 00:52:12,870
and I didn't then,
except that he

1216

00:52:12,870 --> 00:52:15,720
was a financier of some sort.

1217

00:52:15,720 --> 00:52:17,436
And he was sort of--

1218

00:52:17,436 --> 00:52:21,390
some of them, including
him, was upset,

1219

00:52:21,390 --> 00:52:24,540
because we were heaping
all these indignitar--

1220

00:52:24,540 --> 00:52:26,040
I don't think I
have the right word.

1221

00:52:26,040 --> 00:52:26,760
Indignities?

1222

00:52:26,760 --> 00:52:29,610
Dignity-- indignities, I
guess you call it on them.

1223

00:52:29,610 --> 00:52:33,780
I mean, after all, I was
a big man in this world.

1224

00:52:33,780 --> 00:52:36,330
So he was not happy about that.

1225
00:52:36,330 --> 00:52:38,550
And I think he
sidestepped the fact

1226
00:52:38,550 --> 00:52:41,100
that he was part of the
killing team, so to speak.

1227
00:52:41,100 --> 00:52:46,130

1228
00:52:46,130 --> 00:52:49,010
Schiwac-- Schirach, I think
his name was Schirach,

1229
00:52:49,010 --> 00:52:50,560
was a youth leader.

1230
00:52:50,560 --> 00:52:53,270
Von Schirach, I
think he was called.

1231
00:52:53,270 --> 00:52:55,280
I remember him as--

1232
00:52:55,280 --> 00:52:59,090
my thoughts about
him, that he was gay.

1233
00:52:59,090 --> 00:53:02,687
He just-- the way he moved
and the way he talked.

1234
00:53:02,687 --> 00:53:04,520
And I had very little
conversation with him,

1235
00:53:04,520 --> 00:53:06,990
but I just had that
impression, that he was gay.

1236

00:53:06,990 --> 00:53:08,100
OK.

1237
00:53:08,100 --> 00:53:11,767
Streicher, I wrote
this the other night,

1238
00:53:11,767 --> 00:53:12,850
but I'm going to tell you.

1239
00:53:12,850 --> 00:53:15,200
A dirty old man,
belongs in the asylum.

1240
00:53:15,200 --> 00:53:17,000
He should be in a--

1241
00:53:17,000 --> 00:53:18,560
they were all
psychotic, you know.

1242
00:53:18,560 --> 00:53:20,390
They were all crazy, these guys.

1243
00:53:20,390 --> 00:53:23,210
I mean, you couldn't do this
unless you were psychotic,

1244
00:53:23,210 --> 00:53:25,460
but he was neurotic,
this Streicher.

1245
00:53:25,460 --> 00:53:27,860
I mean, I had a fixation on him.

1246
00:53:27,860 --> 00:53:29,510
I mean, this guy
was really-- he had

1247
00:53:29,510 --> 00:53:33,470
a face on him that used to drive
me wild every time I looked

1248

00:53:33,470 --> 00:53:35,090

at him.

1249

00:53:35,090 --> 00:53:36,200

How would you describe it?

1250

00:53:36,200 --> 00:53:37,700

Just a mean-looking guy.

1251

00:53:37,700 --> 00:53:40,800

1252

00:53:40,800 --> 00:53:42,290

I don't know.

1253

00:53:42,290 --> 00:53:44,000

I just can't explain it.

1254

00:53:44,000 --> 00:53:46,310

You know how emotional--
you look at someone

1255

00:53:46,310 --> 00:53:49,250

and you hate him, you look
at someone and you love him?

1256

00:53:49,250 --> 00:53:50,880

I looked at him,
and I hated him.

1257

00:53:50,880 --> 00:53:56,833

1258

00:53:56,833 --> 00:53:58,500

And a couple of times
I did talk to him,

1259

00:53:58,500 --> 00:54:01,650

he talked about the
purity of the race,

1260

00:54:01,650 --> 00:54:06,180
that the Jews were going to
spoil the purity of the Aryan

1261
00:54:06,180 --> 00:54:08,910
nation.

1262
00:54:08,910 --> 00:54:11,820
In that vein, you know,
he believed in the purity

1263
00:54:11,820 --> 00:54:15,330
of the blood, so to speak.

1264
00:54:15,330 --> 00:54:17,335
Would you respond?

1265
00:54:17,335 --> 00:54:18,960
Well, I'd say to him,
"Ich bin a Juden.

1266
00:54:18,960 --> 00:54:20,918
Do I look any different
than you, you bastard?"

1267
00:54:20,918 --> 00:54:23,700
I mean, but that
didn't mean anything.

1268
00:54:23,700 --> 00:54:26,730
I don't know if he
was even listening.

1269
00:54:26,730 --> 00:54:28,260
I mean, the guy
was a mental case.

1270
00:54:28,260 --> 00:54:31,687
He belonged locked
up in a block ward.

1271
00:54:31,687 --> 00:54:32,520
I mean, all of them.

1272
00:54:32,520 --> 00:54:37,950
I mean, I can't describe
a guy I hated more.

1273
00:54:37,950 --> 00:54:39,510
But that was him.

1274
00:54:39,510 --> 00:54:43,260
And he stirred up probably
the public with his writings

1275
00:54:43,260 --> 00:54:44,670
in the newspaper.

1276
00:54:44,670 --> 00:54:49,650
And I think he was an advisor
to Hitler on Jewish relations

1277
00:54:49,650 --> 00:54:51,210
or whatever you
want to call them.

1278
00:54:51,210 --> 00:54:55,800
And I think he was
probably more responsible

1279
00:54:55,800 --> 00:54:58,920
for the Final Solution
probably than any of them,

1280
00:54:58,920 --> 00:55:02,010
even though he didn't actually
turn the gas thing on.

1281
00:55:02,010 --> 00:55:04,980
But he got the cauldron going.

1282
00:55:04,980 --> 00:55:07,690
OK.

1283
00:55:07,690 --> 00:55:08,850

Speer was there.

1284

00:55:08,850 --> 00:55:10,500

He was the architect.

1285

00:55:10,500 --> 00:55:12,905

And all I remember about
him is, he was sort of quiet

1286

00:55:12,905 --> 00:55:15,850

and he sat in his cell,
minded his own business.

1287

00:55:15,850 --> 00:55:19,830

He was a fairly
good-looking guy.

1288

00:55:19,830 --> 00:55:22,430

And he said, I had nothing
to do with the army

1289

00:55:22,430 --> 00:55:24,870

or the other thing.

1290

00:55:24,870 --> 00:55:29,910

And I understand afterwards
that he was Hitler's confidante.

1291

00:55:29,910 --> 00:55:33,990

But I didn't know
it at the time.

1292

00:55:33,990 --> 00:55:37,590

Von Papen was a
distinguished-looking guy.

1293

00:55:37,590 --> 00:55:40,860

And all he ever had
to say was "not me.

1294

00:55:40,860 --> 00:55:42,780

I didn't have anything
to do with it.

1295
00:55:42,780 --> 00:55:45,070
I was our diplomat.

1296
00:55:45,070 --> 00:55:45,930
I had nothing."

1297
00:55:45,930 --> 00:55:48,450
OK.

1298
00:55:48,450 --> 00:55:50,580
Goring was interesting.

1299
00:55:50,580 --> 00:55:54,240
They evidently had taken him
off drugs previous to when

1300
00:55:54,240 --> 00:55:55,560
we got to the jailhouse.

1301
00:55:55,560 --> 00:56:00,120
And he was sort of a
walking bundle of slob.

1302
00:56:00,120 --> 00:56:05,460
I remember he always wore a
plush red velvet bathrobe.

1303
00:56:05,460 --> 00:56:10,950
And he was trying to be friends
with the guards all the time.

1304
00:56:10,950 --> 00:56:17,700
He was sort of not jovial, but
he was sort of susceptible to--

1305
00:56:17,700 --> 00:56:22,050
And one night, after I got
out of the jail detail,

1306
00:56:22,050 --> 00:56:26,620
because I left the jail detail

at one point, and I went to--

1307
00:56:26,620 --> 00:56:29,760
which I can describe to you
now or describe to you later,

1308
00:56:29,760 --> 00:56:35,820
I went to his hunting
lodge in Bavaria.

1309
00:56:35,820 --> 00:56:37,680
New House or
something like that.

1310
00:56:37,680 --> 00:56:39,390
I forget the name of it, really.

1311
00:56:39,390 --> 00:56:42,310
And I slept in his down bed.

1312
00:56:42,310 --> 00:56:45,840
And I came back, and I
said to him, jeez, Hermann,

1313
00:56:45,840 --> 00:56:47,640
you had a hell of
a goddamned bed.

1314
00:56:47,640 --> 00:56:50,070
I've never slept in a
down bed in my life.

1315
00:56:50,070 --> 00:56:51,780
And he laughed, and I laughed.

1316
00:56:51,780 --> 00:56:54,023
And it was just sort of
an interesting thing.

1317
00:56:54,023 --> 00:56:55,440
Let's talk about
that little trip.

1318

00:56:55,440 --> 00:56:56,880

Was this your idea to do this?

1319

00:56:56,880 --> 00:57:00,890

No, 3rd Army also
had a prohibition.

1320

00:57:00,890 --> 00:57:04,320

Patton had a lot of things
that officers shouldn't

1321

00:57:04,320 --> 00:57:06,120

drive their own vehicles.

1322

00:57:06,120 --> 00:57:10,380

So I met up with this
lieutenant, who was then

1323

00:57:10,380 --> 00:57:12,640

a liaison to the delegations.

1324

00:57:12,640 --> 00:57:15,268

And he needed a driver,
or he has a Jeep.

1325

00:57:15,268 --> 00:57:15,810

I don't know.

1326

00:57:15,810 --> 00:57:17,790

I don't remember
exactly what happened.

1327

00:57:17,790 --> 00:57:22,170

And he says, well, let's go
down to Bavaria for the weekend,

1328

00:57:22,170 --> 00:57:23,170

because I need a driver.

1329

00:57:23,170 --> 00:57:24,210

You drive.

1330
00:57:24,210 --> 00:57:25,680
Because you're private.

1331
00:57:25,680 --> 00:57:26,490
So we went to--

1332
00:57:26,490 --> 00:57:27,758
I think it was New House.

1333
00:57:27,758 --> 00:57:28,550
And we drove there.

1334
00:57:28,550 --> 00:57:31,440
It was already like a
two or three hour drive.

1335
00:57:31,440 --> 00:57:34,280
And it was a hunting
lodge in the middle of one

1336
00:57:34,280 --> 00:57:36,800
of the most gorgeous
Bavarian Alps.

1337
00:57:36,800 --> 00:57:37,500
It was Bavaria.

1338
00:57:37,500 --> 00:57:38,370
I don't know.

1339
00:57:38,370 --> 00:57:40,230
I think it was near Regensburg.

1340
00:57:40,230 --> 00:57:42,830
And it was beautiful.

1341
00:57:42,830 --> 00:57:44,580
And we stayed overnight,
and we came back.

1342
00:57:44,580 --> 00:57:47,296

We stayed over Saturday night,
we came back the next day.

1343
00:57:47,296 --> 00:57:49,185
And this was Goring's
hunting lodge?

1344
00:57:49,185 --> 00:57:52,320
Goring's hunting lodge
and Goring's bed.

1345
00:57:52,320 --> 00:57:54,910
What were your thoughts
when you were in his bed?

1346
00:57:54,910 --> 00:57:56,835
Just, son of a bitch.

1347
00:57:56,835 --> 00:57:57,960
I mean, what could I think?

1348
00:57:57,960 --> 00:58:01,440
I mean, you know, I'd
never slept in a down bed.

1349
00:58:01,440 --> 00:58:02,140
It's wonderful.

1350
00:58:02,140 --> 00:58:02,700
It really is.

1351
00:58:02,700 --> 00:58:05,470

1352
00:58:05,470 --> 00:58:07,680
I says, this son of bitch
is sleeping in a down bed,

1353
00:58:07,680 --> 00:58:09,540
and he killed all my people.

1354
00:58:09,540 --> 00:58:12,060

That's all I could think about.

1355

00:58:12,060 --> 00:58:15,995

But he didn't-- when I got
back and told him, he didn't--

1356

00:58:15,995 --> 00:58:16,620

he didn't care.

1357

00:58:16,620 --> 00:58:18,390

What did he care?

1358

00:58:18,390 --> 00:58:23,400

I guess-- I think the
drugs had changed his mind.

1359

00:58:23,400 --> 00:58:27,720

I think the gray matter had
thinned out a little bit.

1360

00:58:27,720 --> 00:58:28,500

So.

1361

00:58:28,500 --> 00:58:30,750

Did thoughts of revenge
ever cross your mind

1362

00:58:30,750 --> 00:58:32,280

while you were
guarding these men?

1363

00:58:32,280 --> 00:58:34,410

Every day, every day.

1364

00:58:34,410 --> 00:58:36,090

I would have liked to kill them.

1365

00:58:36,090 --> 00:58:39,450

I kept trying to figure
out how I could kill them.

1366

00:58:39,450 --> 00:58:41,130

How could I kill them?

1367

00:58:41,130 --> 00:58:42,990

I mean, every day.

1368

00:58:42,990 --> 00:58:44,760

I don't know about the
other guys, but me?

1369

00:58:44,760 --> 00:58:45,990

I did.

1370

00:58:45,990 --> 00:58:47,340

But how could I?

1371

00:58:47,340 --> 00:58:50,910

We were watched very carefully.

1372

00:58:50,910 --> 00:58:52,870

We didn't carry guns.

1373

00:58:52,870 --> 00:58:55,300

Because we were always afraid
that the prisoners would

1374

00:58:55,300 --> 00:58:58,830

grab the gun out of your holster
and shoot themselves or do

1375

00:58:58,830 --> 00:58:59,330

something.

1376

00:58:59,330 --> 00:59:02,260

So we just carried
the holster, no gun.

1377

00:59:02,260 --> 00:59:03,680

They couldn't go
anywhere, anyway,

1378

00:59:03,680 --> 00:59:04,840

even if they got the gun.

1379
00:59:04,840 --> 00:59:07,150
So we didn't have any guns.

1380
00:59:07,150 --> 00:59:09,200
So how could I kill them?

1381
00:59:09,200 --> 00:59:11,830
I mean, how could I go into the
cell and choke them to death?

1382
00:59:11,830 --> 00:59:14,150
I mean, how could I kill
them with my own hands?

1383
00:59:14,150 --> 00:59:17,650
So that thought was the whole
time I was in that cell block.

1384
00:59:17,650 --> 00:59:21,530
I was, how could I kill
one of these bastards?

1385
00:59:21,530 --> 00:59:24,630
And I don't care
what happens to me.

1386
00:59:24,630 --> 00:59:26,070
But I couldn't do it, anyway.

1387
00:59:26,070 --> 00:59:27,250
So.

1388
00:59:27,250 --> 00:59:29,165
Did you end up guarding
most of the 23?

1389
00:59:29,165 --> 00:59:32,830
Yeah, I think I, at one point
in the 2 and 1/2 months--

1390
00:59:32,830 --> 00:59:36,370

I think I was there about
2, 2 and 1/2 months.

1391
00:59:36,370 --> 00:59:38,510
At most point, I think--

1392
00:59:38,510 --> 00:59:39,755
not all of them.

1393
00:59:39,755 --> 00:59:40,630
Let me see what else.

1394
00:59:40,630 --> 00:59:42,670
See, I don't remember.

1395
00:59:42,670 --> 00:59:45,700
The toughest ones were
the military guys,

1396
00:59:45,700 --> 00:59:49,960
like Jodl and Keitel,
Donitz and Raeder,

1397
00:59:49,960 --> 00:59:51,460
you know, the two admirals?

1398
00:59:51,460 --> 00:59:52,880
They were the tough guys.

1399
00:59:52,880 --> 00:59:56,890
I remember taking Donitz
over to the cellblock,

1400
00:59:56,890 --> 01:00:00,820
from the cellblock
to the courthouse.

1401
01:00:00,820 --> 01:00:02,380
And while I was
doing that, we had

1402
01:00:02,380 --> 01:00:05,428

to go through a corridor
that had a big iron door.

1403
01:00:05,428 --> 01:00:06,970
You know, one of
these big iron door.

1404
01:00:06,970 --> 01:00:08,350
And I opened it.

1405
01:00:08,350 --> 01:00:10,850
And as I went through--
he went through,

1406
01:00:10,850 --> 01:00:13,430
and then as he went through,
he had his hand in back of him,

1407
01:00:13,430 --> 01:00:15,760
and he pulled the door,
and he almost broke my leg.

1408
01:00:15,760 --> 01:00:21,280
Because the big iron door was
moving when I went through it.

1409
01:00:21,280 --> 01:00:24,400
They were tough.

1410
01:00:24,400 --> 01:00:26,680
And Kaltenbrunner
was there, too.

1411
01:00:26,680 --> 01:00:28,900
He was, I think, the
replacement for that guy

1412
01:00:28,900 --> 01:00:30,920
they killed in Czechoslovakia.

1413
01:00:30,920 --> 01:00:33,760
Remember Heydrich?

1414

01:00:33,760 --> 01:00:34,990

When they killed Heydrich?

1415

01:00:34,990 --> 01:00:37,390

I think Kaltenbrunner took
over in the administration

1416

01:00:37,390 --> 01:00:38,815

of the Final Solution.

1417

01:00:38,815 --> 01:00:41,680

I think he was the
chief administrator.

1418

01:00:41,680 --> 01:00:42,550

He was there.

1419

01:00:42,550 --> 01:00:44,890

And see, the problem
I had that time,

1420

01:00:44,890 --> 01:00:48,550

I knew what they had done, but
I didn't know the magnitude.

1421

01:00:48,550 --> 01:00:50,160

I didn't understand.

1422

01:00:50,160 --> 01:00:53,050

I mean, here it's
hard to believe

1423

01:00:53,050 --> 01:00:58,990

that these are the guys that
killed six million plus people

1424

01:00:58,990 --> 01:01:01,825

in the last 10 years.

1425

01:01:01,825 --> 01:01:05,660

Without the casualties in the
Army and the Navy and so forth?

1426
01:01:05,660 --> 01:01:07,843
I mean, it's hard to fathom.

1427
01:01:07,843 --> 01:01:09,760
I don't I don't think I
could fathom it today,

1428
01:01:09,760 --> 01:01:13,390
and I'm 70 years old now.

1429
01:01:13,390 --> 01:01:17,860
Let me see what else
I can give you as a--

1430
01:01:17,860 --> 01:01:20,260
and then of course,
you know Newhouse.

1431
01:01:20,260 --> 01:01:21,090
I wrote it down.

1432
01:01:21,090 --> 01:01:21,980
Newhouse.

1433
01:01:21,980 --> 01:01:24,010
Yeah, I found it.

1434
01:01:24,010 --> 01:01:33,170
But most of them--

1435
01:01:33,170 --> 01:01:33,920
I told you about--

1436
01:01:33,920 --> 01:01:34,940
Rosenberg was there.

1437
01:01:34,940 --> 01:01:37,030
That's right.

1438
01:01:37,030 --> 01:01:39,110

But I didn't get to
talk to him too much.

1439
01:01:39,110 --> 01:01:42,140
Rosenberg was some sort
of a planner of some sort.

1440
01:01:42,140 --> 01:01:45,990
I think he was in
charge of something.

1441
01:01:45,990 --> 01:01:47,330
Admiral Raeder?

1442
01:01:47,330 --> 01:01:48,740
Raeder was there.

1443
01:01:48,740 --> 01:01:50,810
He was the submarine
guy, I think, wasn't he?

1444
01:01:50,810 --> 01:01:53,660
Was the head of the
submarine force.

1445
01:01:53,660 --> 01:01:55,570
And he was a tough guy.

1446
01:01:55,570 --> 01:01:57,940
All I remember-- it's
hard 50 years later

1447
01:01:57,940 --> 01:01:58,940
to remember these guys.

1448
01:01:58,940 --> 01:02:00,440
There was a guy by
the name of Frick

1449
01:02:00,440 --> 01:02:02,360
there, who was the
minister of the interior.

1450

01:02:02,360 --> 01:02:03,890

I remember that.

1451

01:02:03,890 --> 01:02:06,290

Whatever that meant.

1452

01:02:06,290 --> 01:02:11,990

Jodl, I know, was the
military advisor to Hitler.

1453

01:02:11,990 --> 01:02:15,050

And then there was a guy
by name a Seyss-Inquart.

1454

01:02:15,050 --> 01:02:16,790

He was in charge
of the labor camps.

1455

01:02:16,790 --> 01:02:23,287

You know, the factories,
like that made Mercedes?

1456

01:02:23,287 --> 01:02:25,370

Well, he was in charge of
getting the slave labor.

1457

01:02:25,370 --> 01:02:28,010

He was organizing slave labor.

1458

01:02:28,010 --> 01:02:31,010

To this day, I won't
drive a German car.

1459

01:02:31,010 --> 01:02:35,140

And I know it's foolish,
but it's emotional.

1460

01:02:35,140 --> 01:02:36,000